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INSTEAD: 1:35 BT-42 ■ 1:35 M3A1 Stuart ■ 1:35 M3A1 Scout Car ■ 1:35 Valentine Light Tank ■ And much more...

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NEW 1:35 SCALE DRAGON RSO/03 AND BISON II

The Eastern Front presented many difficulties during WWII, one of which was the harsh weather. With few well-paved roads available, rain and snow could render the terrain almost impassable, as Germany found out during their first winter in 1941-42. For such difficult conditions, Germany realized it needed special tracked vehicles to traverse Russia's roads and countryside. One solution offered up was the Raupenschlepper Ost (literally "Caterpillar Tractor East", or "RSO" for short). The RSO, based on the Steyr 1500A light truck, was initially conceived as a prime mover and tractor for towing artillery pieces, although it was eventually put to many uses. The fully tracked vehicle performed very well in the muddy conditions, and various manufacturers eventually produced 23,000 vehicles before the war ended.

The RSO/03 was a later-production variant that had a simple metal cab with a soft-top roof. It was powered to a top speed of 30km/h by a Deutz diesel engine. A pintle was fitted at the rear for towing artillery pieces.

Dragon has followed up its earlier RSO kit mounting a pAK40 gun with a 1/35 scale kit of the RSO/03. The only

elements borrowed from the earlier kit are the chassis and running gear. Other parts such as the distinctive cab and cargo bed are completely new toolings in keeping with the redesigned RSO/03. Brand new, too, is the Deutz engine. To add to the appeal of this sharply detailed kit, it comes with Dragon's acclaimed ScmPak38 antitank cannon.

Also due is a new 1:35 scale Bison II, which has been largely retooled. Brand new parts include the chassis, upper hull and fighting compartment. The open-topped fighting compartment is well detailed, with true-to-scale thin armour plate. The road wheels have also been updated. Its firepower is improved with Dragon's highly detailed s.I.G. 33 gun and a new shield. With the addition of Magic Tracks, this kit of a vehicle that operated in North Africa's desert terrain will be a worthwhile addition to any Wehrmacht modeller's collection.

Thanks to the Hobby Company Limited for the information www.hobbyco.net



MODEL ZONE EXPANDS FURTHER THIS AUTUMN

Modelzone, the UK's largest model retailer, will open three new stores this Autumn, taking the total number of stores to 46. Having opened in Scotland and Wales in 2010, ModelZone continues to expand to offer more models in Plastic Model Kits, Die-cast, Radio Control, Model Railways, Military Collectables, Slot Car and Sci-Fi.

The first store will open in the new Westfield Centre in Stratford, London just before October half term, creating an opportunity to promote ModelZone to all the Olympic visitors visiting London in 2012. Portsmouth and Bristol will follow early in November. Employing model enthusiasts, all ModelZone stores bring together in one place over 40 years of knowledge and experience in the model market catering for both the casual shopper and dedicated collector alike. For more information on Modelzone please visit www.modelzone.co.uk



SHERMAN CDL TURRET FROM INSIDE THE ARMOUR

Inside the Armour's range continues its rapid expansion with item no. 35039 - a Sherman CDL Turret. This is a simple turret conversion for all 1:35 scale M4A1 Sherman models of the M4A1 Sherman, which will result in the unique Canal Defence Light variant. This is something really different for your Sherman or Allied Tank collection. The master is by Marcos Serra, and the turret is available online from Inside the Armour right now.

Thanks to Inside the Armour for the information and images. www.insidethearmour.com



Lone Star Military Miniatures

Lone Star Military Miniatures is a new company based in Tennessee and will debut their line around the beginning of 2012. They will specialize in 1:16 and 1:9 scale busts & figures.

Their range will include busts of a 1st Lieutenant, 5th Special Forces in Vietnam; a Goumier, 17th Tabor, Italy 1943-44; a US Army Sergeant, 502nd PIR, 101st Airborne at Bastogne in December 1944; an SAS Lieutenant in November 1941; a US Trooper, 1st Cav. Div., Vietnam 1970 and a full 1:9 scale figure of a Waffen SS Machine Gunner.

Thanks to Chris Mrosko for the information.

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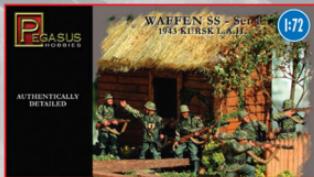
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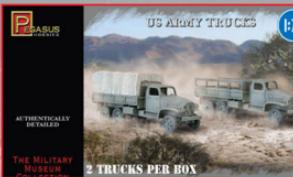
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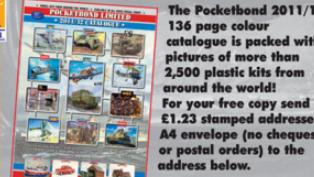
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Bovington's immaculate Light Tank Mk.VI B

VICKERS LIGHT TANK MK.VI B

The Editor outlines the development, variants and operations of the Vickers Light Tank Mk.VI, and takes a walk around The Tank Museum's immaculate Mk.VI B

The tank was introduced by Great Britain during the First World War, and it revolutionised the way that war would be fought from that point on.

Between the wars, however, British armoured warfare strategy stalled. Military spending and recruitment were drastically cut after the end of The Great War. Although forward thinking British theorists such as J. F. C. "Boney" Fuller advocated the concept of combined arms warfare incorporating infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft; his ideas fell on deaf ears in his own country.

Even so, tank manufacture in Britain continued. Engineering firm Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd was Britain's most successful tank

designer throughout the 1920s and 1930s, equipping not only British armoured units but also exporting its products widely. Vickers-Armstrongs' designs of this period included the Vickers 6 Ton, the Carden-Loyd Tankette, and Cruisers Mk.I and Mk.II. Vickers was also responsible for the Valentine tank design of 1940.

The most notable of Vickers-Armstrongs' export achievements was the Vickers 6-Ton and its variants. Many of these tanks were purchased by a variety of armies including China, Poland, Greece, Finland and Spain; and even as far afield as Bolivia. The Soviet Union also bought 15 twin-turret Mk.E Type A tanks and a license in 1931. They would eventually build around 12,000 improved Vickers 6-Ton

tanks under the new name of T-26. Ironically, the British Army only ever used four Vickers 6-Ton tanks for training.

The Light Tank Mk.VI was Vickers sixth in a family of light tanks built for the British Army. The Mk.VI was manned by a crew of three, was a mere 13' in length, weighed a little over 5 tons and was powered by a 4.4 litre 88 horsepower Meadows six cylinder petrol engine. The Mk.VI was the subject of continual development and improvement. The Mk.VI A saw a revised cupola and running gear; the Mk. VI B introduced some production streamlining; while the Mk.VI C was fitted with wider bogies and three carburettors to improve engine performance. The Mk.VI C also introduced more

powerful armament in the form of co-axial 15 mm and 7.92 mm Besa machine guns. Specialised versions included a Mk.VI Anti-Aircraft tank fitted with four 7.92mm Besa machine guns; and a variation on the Mk.VI B for service in India.

At the beginning of the Second World War, British armour doctrine divided tanks into the roles of Cruiser and Infantry Tanks. Cruisers were fast light to medium weight vehicles; while Infantry tanks would directly support an infantry attack at walking pace. There was still no commitment to the concept of combined arms warfare.

When the Light Tank Mk.VI was introduced in 1936, it was thought to be the best light tank in current service. Indeed, it was ideal for reconnaissance and colonial

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The simple boxy design of the Vickers Light Tank is obvious from this angle.



The tank's brass manufacturing plate. Note that the location of manufacture has been ground off as a security measure.



The big driver's hatches, all closed up in this view.



The track links for the Light Tank Mk.VI were quite small.



The engine cover, front right hand side.



Note the immaculate workmanship of the rivets and the joins.

policing duties, but the brunt of front line armour service fell to around 1,000 Mk.VI Light Tanks at the commencement of hostilities in September 1939. At this time, there were only 79 Mk. I (A9) and Mk. II (A10) Cruiser Tanks and 67 Mk. I Matilda I Infantry Tanks available, and most of these were not in operational units.

With its thin armour and machine-gun armament, the Vickers Mk.VI was never intended to slug it out with other tanks, yet it formed the backbone of the BEF's presence in France in May 1940. Not surprisingly, the Vickers tanks failed to make an impression on the superior technology and tactics of

German armoured formations in France.

Despite this inauspicious debut, and due to the absence of a better alternative, the Vickers Mk.VI soldiered on against Italian and German forces in North Africa in 1940; and as late as 1941 in Greece and Crete. Three Mk.VI tanks were even sent to Norway, but their transport was lost to a German air attack before they arrived. The Light Tank Mk.VI also saw service against the Japanese in the Far East.

In addition to the British Army, the Light Tank Mk. VI was also employed by Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Egypt.

LIGHT TANK MK.VI B AT THE TANK MUSEUM

The Tank Museum at Bovington has an immaculate Light Tank Mk.VI B in its collection. The Mk.VI B was one of the variants that formed the backbone of British armour in the dark days of 1939 and 1940, but this particular example was probably only ever used for training and never saw front line service.

The photographs were taken in March 2009. ■

More information about The Tank Museum may be found on their website www.tankmuseum.org

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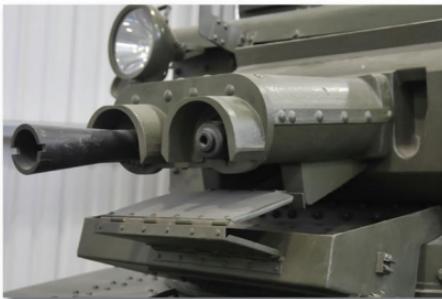
Close-up detail of the mirror base and the engine cover handle.



The driver's armoured vision slots.



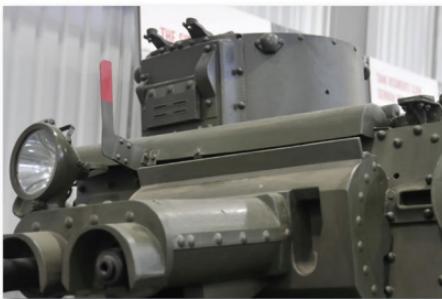
The headlights are mounted deep inside armoured covers.



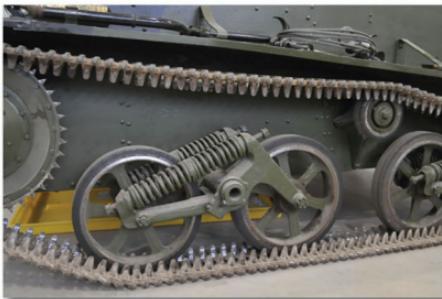
.50 cal and .30 cal machine guns in their armoured mantlet.



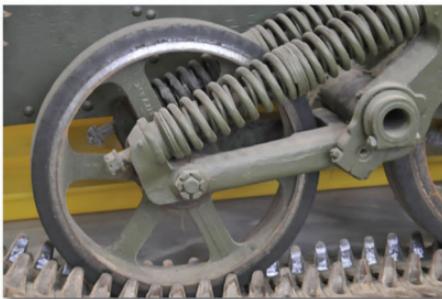
More evidence of fine British workmanship!



The thin metal vane sight is painted red on top.



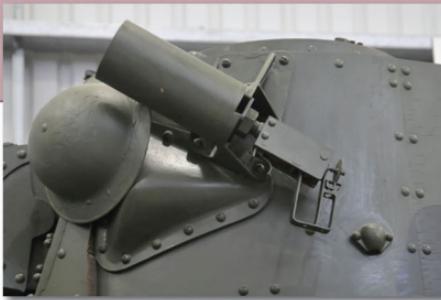
One of the four main bogie units.



Close-up detail of one of the cast metal road wheels. The wear on the raised rim is noteworthy.



The Light Tank Mk.VI B featured a single return roller on each side.



The left side smoke grenade discharger.



A crew member would have to lean out and pull the trigger to launch the smoke grenade.



The shiny brass fire extinguisher.



Tow cable wrapped around hooks on the left side track guard.



The handle of the shovel clamped firmly to the track guard.



The black painted shovel head.



A full length view of the shovel.



Think Tank - VICKERS LIGHT TANK MK.VI B



Turret rear and antenna mount.



Spotlight detail.
Note the electrical wires trailing from the base and the back of the light.



Exhaust pipe and muffler.



Note the folded metal deflector in front of the mantlet.



Detail photo of the engine hatch locking device.



Right front view of Bovington's Light Tank Mk. VI B.

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(left) Assembled & painted by Eth Middleton with LifeColor acrylics & an Iwata airbrush



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LADY GAGA'S AFGHAN TOUR

PART ONE – VEHICLE AND DRIVER

Kamil Feliks Sztabala modifies the new HobbyBoss 1:35 scale ShkH DANA to Polish specifications, and takes us step-by-step through the process of scratch building a tailor made driver.



When HobbyBoss announced their 1:35 ShK DANA as a future release, I was pretty sure that it would be a 'must-have' for me. It was also obvious that when I got it in my hands I would make a vehicle used by the Polish military in Afghanistan. Amongst other reasons, this was mainly due to their charming nicknames: Barbara, Fiona and Lady Gaga. When decals for ISAF DANAs from ToRo appeared on the market, I purchased them and I was ready to start my Afghan project.

FIGURES

In fact, the vehicle and new decals were not everything I needed for my vignette. There was another small element that I had to take care of - the figures. Since there were no after-market figures suitable for my project currently available, I decided to sculpt them.

My favourite figure modelling material is the two-part epoxy putty - Magic Sculp.

The tools that I use are simple. They include a dental spatula, a suitably shaped barbecue pick and styrene rod. I prefer these DIY tools to any professional stuff. To finish all the surfaces it is enough to smooth them with a brush dipped in water.

I don't want to write too much about each step of sculpting. In my opinion every picture is worth a thousand words. But let's try.

I started each figure with their heads. I sculpted all of their details over small pre-formed balls of Magic Sculp mounted on wooden sticks. Finished heads were placed on a simple skeleton made of a copper wire. Little by little, I was adding flesh and clothes to the wire frame. Starting with the pants, I reproduced all the parts of the uniforms. For the arms, the 'backbone' of copper wire was once again used. Sometimes I temporarily added plasticine to check if the figures had the correct proportions and shapes.

Sculpting the driver figure was a little troublesome because it was necessary to check his fit to the cab at every step.

Each figure has different types of uniform and equipment. As a reference I used a really interesting thread about Polish Afghan Deployment at militaryphotos.net.

When the figures were finished, I had them cast in resin.

I used Vallejo acrylics for painting the figures. These paints need a primer base coat, so I started the paint job with an airbrushed coat of a XF-2 Flat White from Tamiya. ▶



The kit's suspension is fixed in the straight ahead position, but this was modified to display the wheels turned off-centre.



Some minor modifications were made to the kit parts to depict the Polish version of the DANA, but the kit detail is very good straight from the box.



Scribers and razer saws are basic tools but very useful for any modelling project.



The Automated Fire Control System TOPAZ, a PC tablet, and FONET intercom equipment were scratch built for the cab interior.



The wheel hubs, modified to permit them to be turned.



One of the modified suspension units.



The scratch built driver, test-fitted in his cab.



Cabling was fitted to new boxes on the starboard wall of the cab. The 0.4 and 0.55mm tin wire will barely be visible once the cab is sealed up.



The screen and more wiring were fitted to the upper corner of the cab.



The cab received a base coat of Mr Color 39 Dark Yellow, faded with patches of a shade lightened with white.



The boxes, cabling and seat were picked out using Vallejo acrylics.



A careful paint job makes a big impact, even on small details.

◀ Usually I start with applying colours on the face and other fleshy parts of the figure.

Next I paint the elements of clothing starting with the closest to the face and the hands, and proceeding to the outside, with details like buttons and insignia at the end. In this case I also used some decals from ToRo from their modern figure sets, with ranks, name badges etc. For a final touch I sprayed the whole figure with satin varnish, because in my opinion a matt finish doesn't look natural on figures.

We will see more of the other figures in the next instalment.

BUILDING THE VEHICLE

In my opinion, HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale ShkH DANA is detailed enough to build it straight from the box. The only minor modifications were introduced by my own idea for the vignette and the subject - the vehicle of the Polish Task Force in Afghanistan.

I reworked the kit's steering mechanism to turn the front wheels slightly. I had to cut some parts and scratch build their replacement because in HobbyBoss' kit this mechanism is not workable.

I made the joints of transmission system with styrene rod mounted into holes drilled in the front frame

and wheel's brakes. I also reworked the pusher system for steering mechanism. It was necessary to cut off their details and mount them in a new position.

To depict my vehicle in transport position I had to rework the hydraulic bumper jacks to make

them slide up. It was necessary to cut them to a proper length and prepare their mounts with small pieces of styrene.

Because I wanted to build a Polish version of this vehicle it was necessary to scratch build some equipment that was typically fitted

to these vehicles. Frankly, they are not really all that visible or obvious once the model is sealed up, but regardless I scratch built details of the Automated Fire Control System TOPAZ, including a PC tablet, and FONET intercom equipment for the cab interior. ▶

The completed driver finds a home in his cab.





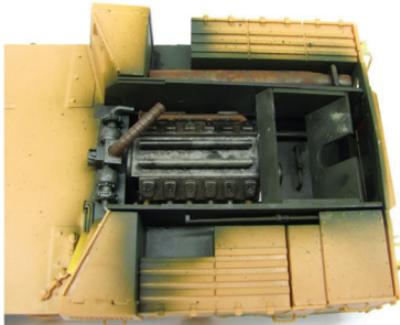
A view of the equipment from the top looking down.



All that hard work, and this is what we can see through the windows of the completed cab!



The engine was painted in a base colour of Gunmetal Grey, followed by detailing and weathering using Vallejo and Lifecolor acrylics, and Train Coor Grease and Oil.



This basic painting and weathering is more than adequate considering the engine will be fairly well hidden when the model is complete. Note the rusty muffler above the engine in this photo.



All the sub-assemblies are brought together for test-fitting, but they are not glued together at this stage.



The kit antenna mount is placed on front of the cab, but on Polish vehicles it is moved to the side. It was necessary to rework this detail a little using some styrene rod and piece of scrap sprue.



Keeping the model in its separate sub-assemblies makes painting much easier.

I used different plastic profiles to represent all these parts. I scratch built them simply by following some technical data found at the manufacturer's website. All the wiring was made with 0,4 and 0,55mm tin wire. To be honest, their arrangement was invented, because I couldn't find any good reference for it. In fact, after closing the cab, they are not really even visible through small hatches.

I also replaced the gear lever with a thin styrene rod because in my opinion the original one from the kit was too thick.

I started painting the cab interior with a coat of Mr Colour 39 Dark Yellow. Next I made some highlights with a mix of the same Dark Yellow base colour and white, to give the best representation of a Polish Dana's interior tone.

All equipment and details were picked out with Vallejo acrylics.

At this stage I covered it with a clear coat.

All details were treated to a wash made using MIG Productions' Dark Wash. I also highlighted some edges with a dry-brush technique using light beige acrylic paint. After that, I airbrushed the whole interior with a matt coat. Some mud and dirt on the floor were added using Tamiya weathering pastel sticks. Lastly, I fitted the driver figure and I was able to

close the cab.

At this stage I had to paint the engine and its compartment. This is once again a barely visible section on the finished model, so I didn't pay too much time or attention to it. First I sprayed the engine with Tamiya TS-38 Gunnental Grey. Next I applied different acrylic paints (Green Grey, Smoke, Oil and Rust), mixed on the surface wettened with Lifecolour's thinner. It is better than water for that purpose, thanks to its lower surface tension.

The engine compartment was airbrushed with Tamiya XF-62 Olive Drab and weathered in the same way as the engine itself, with the use of different acrylics mixed on the wet surfaces. The chassis and the suspension were sprayed with an overall coat of Tamiya XF-27 RLM 70 Black Green.

I completed construction of the vehicle following the assembly guide, except for one small detail. The kit antenna mount is placed on front of the cab, but on Polish vehicles it is moved to the side. It was necessary to rework this detail a little adding some styrene rod and piece of scrap sprue, then mount it in ▶



The covered machine gun was scratch built from various pieces of plastic rod, strip and sheet. All that needs to be done here is to reproduce the gun's basic outline.



The canvas cover was formed from tissue paper saturated in a water and white glue mix.



A primer coat of Tamiya acrylic XF-62 Olive Drab was sprayed over all the sub-assemblies.



The base camouflage colour was Mr. Color C312 Light Green lacquer.



The light green base colour was mixed with Mr Color C316 White to provide some variation via fading and vertical streaking.



The disruptive brown pattern was painted using Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown and highlighted with Gunze C310 USAF Brown.



Long rolls of plasticine were used to mask off the camouflage pattern.



Tamiya XF-69 NATO Black was used as the base colour for the black camouflage, highlighted afterwards with XF-63 German Grey.



Micro Set and Micro Sol decal solutions worked perfectly with Tofu's aftermarket Polish markings.



The floor of the gun turret was suitably dirtied up.

"In my opinion, HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale ShkH DANA is detailed enough to build it straight from the box...,"



Details and equipment were picked out using Vallejo's paints - for example Gunnmetal Grey was used for the tools, Cork Brown for the wooden parts and Blue for the sights.



At last, the painted sub-assemblies may be brought together and we can appreciate the full impact of this impressive vehicle.

► its proper place and position.

The last detail I had to make was the canvas for the machine gun. Originals parts from the kit were taken away to my 'spare parts stash', and in their place I made a dummy gun using different styrene profiles. I used a piece of tissue paper impregnated with white glue for the canvas cover.

PAINTING

To make the paintwork much easier, I kept the whole model divided in separate sections, like the gun, chassis and turret cabs.

I started the paintwork with a overall coat of Tamiya XF-62 Olive Drab. Next I airbrushed the whole vehicle with a basecoat of Mr. Colour C312 light green. I also

added some highlights and vertical streaks using a mixture of the base colour and white.

Long rolls of plasticine were used to mask off the camouflage pattern. The disruptive brown pattern was painted using Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown and highlighted with Gunze C310 USAF Brown. Tamiya XF-69 NATO Black was used as the base

colour for the black camouflage, highlighted afterwards with XF-63 German Grey.

Once the basic camouflage was in place I was able to apply data stencil and insignia. Torro's decals work well with Microscale's wetting and solvent liquids, so there were no problems at this stage.

Next, I coloured all details and



Reflector lights and turn signals were treated to Tamiya X-7 Red and X-26 Clear Orange, while the windows were tinted with Tamiya's acrylic X-19 Smoke.



Sienna Earth and Industrial City dust pigments were airbrushed over the tyres and the chassis.



equipment using Vallejo's paints. Gunmetal Grey was used for the tools, Cork Brown for the wooden parts and Blue for the sights. This step was finished with a coat of glossy clear applied over the whole model.

With the surface prepared this way I was able to apply the wash. I used Van Dyke Brown oil paint mixed with MIG's thinners for washes. I usually apply a thick coat of this mixture over the whole surface, and remove it with a piece of cloth or paper towel and cotton

buds. I used almost 100 buds for this kit!

When the wash was dry it was time to bring all the sub-assemblies together. The completed model was washed with Gunze acrylic H2O Flat Clear.

At this point I installed all the clear parts (windshields, windows etc.) and painted the reflector lights, turn signals etc. I used Tamiya X-7 Red and X-26 Clear Orange for these. Following this, I sprayed all 'glass' surfaces with ▶



When dry, the excess of powders were scrubbed off using a hard brush. The tyres' tread was also removed with sandpaper, to expose the dark rubber surface.



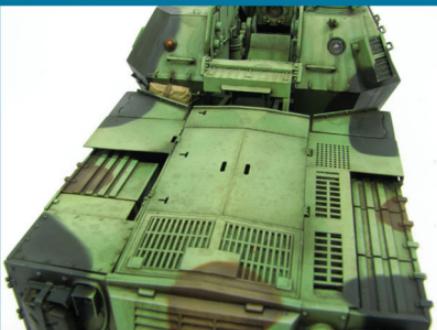
All stains and patches on the surface were painted with MIG's Dark Wash.



The wash was not shaken much to ensure that the effect was not too dark.



Lady Gaga is just one of several colourfully named DANAs.



Wet wash was blown from the paintbrush to make small spots and stains on upper surfaces. Some additional light stains and patches were also added using weathering sticks from Tamiya (Mud and Sand) thinned with water.

SCRATCH BUILDING A DRIVER



The driver figure starts with this small ball of Magic Sculp mounted on a pointy stick.



The tools used to add details are quite simple. They include a dental spatula, properly shaped barbecue pick and styrene rod.



These DIY tools are perfectly adequate to form the details of the face and body.



The nose has been added here, and the shape of the head refined.



Eyebrows and cheeks make a big difference.



The character is really taking shape now with the inclusion of a beard.



With the face complete, the sculpting of the headgear can commence. This might look like a shower cap now...



...but the addition of some simple strips and other shapes will soon transform it into a Soviet-style tanker's helmet.



The body has to start somewhere. In this case, it is nothing more than a few lengths of copper wire soldered together and test-fitted in the cab.



Magic Sculp has been used again to add the basic shape of the feet, making sure that they reach the pedals, and the start of the torso.



The head is added to the skeletal frame to check height and proportions.



The legs are almost complete here, and the body is starting to take shape.



The features of the jacket may be clearly seen here.



The side flaps of the tanker's helmet are only added once the torso is complete to ensure that the drape of these characteristic parts is natural.



The feet are on the pedals and our driver looks pretty comfortable in his front office. Something still seems to be missing though...



He is still mostly 'armless'! The hands are fitted to the steering wheel before the Magic Sculp is built up on the copper wire frames.



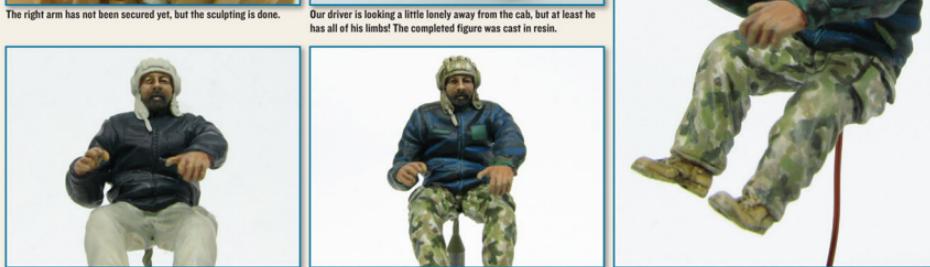
The left arm is now complete.



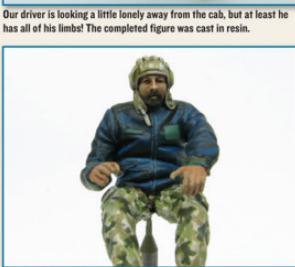
The right arm has not been secured yet, but the sculpting is done.



Our driver is looking a little lonely away from the cab, but at least he has all of his limbs! The completed figure was cast in resin.



Vallejo acrylics were used for painting the driver. The face and hands were painted first, followed by the clothing closest to the flesh.



Painting details such as buttons and insignia follow the main colours.

The whole figure is finished with a coat of satin varnish, which looks more natural than a dead flat coat.

◀ Tamiya X-19 Smoke.

The vehicle was now ready for dusting and weathering.

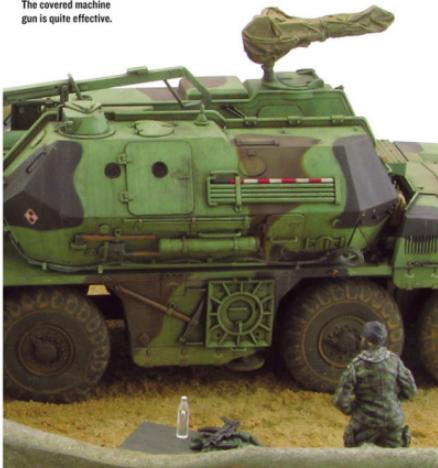
All stains and patches on the surface were painted with MIG's Dark Wash. Note, that in this case I did not shake the bottle too well, to keep the liquid a little transparent.

Wet wash was blown from the paintbrush to make small spots and stains on upper surfaces. Some additional light stains and patches were also added using weathering sticks from Tamiya (Mud and Sand) thinned with water.

Now it was time to powder the wheels, the chassis and the lower parts of the vehicle. I used Sienna Earth and Industrial City dust pigments. First I brushed this mixture over the tyres and the chassis. When they dried, I wiped the excess of powders using a hard brush. I also removed the tyres' tread with sandpaper, to expose the dark rubber surface.

Lastly, I covered all pigments with a thin coat of fixative. ■

The covered machine gun is quite effective.



Modelspec

HobbyBoss 1:35 scale ShKh DANA Kit No. 85501

Accessories Used

Tolo Model Decals Item No. 35007 - 152mm ShKH DANA in Polish service

Materials Used

- Magic Sculp
- Plastril and Evergreen styrene profiles and sheets
- Styrofoam
- Net-curtain
- Copper wire
- PVC Light plastic

Paints and Finishing Products

- Tamiya Acrylic enamels
- Mr. Hobby Colour paint
- Vallejo Acrylics
- Tamiya's Weathering sticks
- Pigments
- Vallejo Acrylic paste
- Polar Model scenery accessories
- Uni-grout fast drying priming emulsion

Impressive kit; good fit; high level of detail straight from the box.

Steering fixed straight ahead.

Available from

HobbyBoss kits are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Rating



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Next time, Kamil will describe the building and painting of the fire base and the additional figures.

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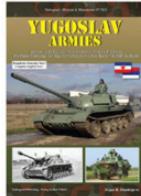
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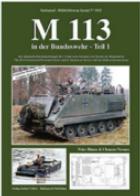
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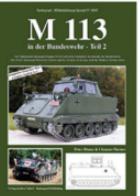
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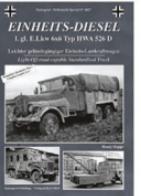
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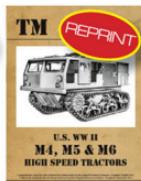
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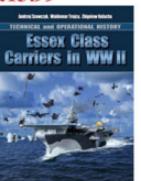
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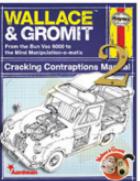
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8TH ARMY ARM OF SERVICE MARKINGS



The task of identifying British tank markings is made more challenging due to the frequent application of the censor's pen, obscuring the markings of operational vehicles. This practice may be seen on this 8th Army Sherman.

William Marshall tackles the hotly debated subject of British Tank Markings, and summarises the maze of 8th Army Arm of Service Markings.

The subject of British tank markings has been and will always be a subject of debate and controversy. If and when we discover all the relevant orders and instructions issued by the authorities, there will still remain many instances of "Commander's initiative", which allowed for changes to the basic instructions issued. These aspects alone will most probably prevent us from ever having a complete picture of what was intended and what actually was applied in the field. Primary research and the study of photos will greatly help to compile an overall picture of what actually was applied in the field.

It is extremely difficult to do long range research, especially for me who is a million miles away from the National Archives in Kew,

UK. We have seen the failure of long range research that was done by individuals on German armour and aircraft marking on a number of occasions. This has only created more confusion and chaos to already difficult subject so I do not claim to be any kind of expert on British WWII armour markings.

My intention here is to offer some insights from documents that I have found in my own military archive that may help to complete the picture mentioned above. I have not changed any details and have only added some colour to make the chart a type of "Quick Reference Guide". Any person who wishes to use these charts should take into account the various Army General Orders (Gos), Middle East General Orders (MEGOs) and Army Council Instructions (ACIs) issued at the time.

I lay no claim of accuracy to the original document as one or two of the original pieces of text were changed by pen by persons unknown, which has added in making it more complete than the original printed text. These changes are indicated on the charts in blue text.

BASIC MARKINGS

The beginning for most vehicle markings start with a pamphlet published during 1941 called "Vehicle Marking - 1941" as notified in ACI's of 08 January 1941. This is a significant document and the basis to all markings. It describes the various markings as follows (extraction from this pamphlet only):

Formation Sign. This term will be taken to include any special

signs, which may, from time to time, be allotted to formations and to units working independently. Formation signs have been allotted by the War OFFICE and have been published in the pamphlet "GHO, Corps and Divisional Signs - 1940" and amended thereto. Formation signs have also been allotted to areas and to certain independent formations and units.

Unit Signs. These consist of a plate with the unit serial number in white on a coloured background. (Comment by author: this is our typical Arm of Service markings.)

Sub para (a). Except in training establishments and other units dealt with in para 7 below, units will carry two removable plates, one facing the front and one the rear, fitted with permanent frames. The plates will be approximately 9

1/2 in by 8 1/2 in. One side of the plate the serial number allotted to the unit will be painted in white and as large as possible on the coloured background as detailed in sub-para (e) below. The reverse side of the plate will be coloured khaki with "pass" stencilled on it in white letters.

Par 2. Formation Signs. The formation sign will be stencilled on the near side front mudguard on all types of vehicles which have mudguards except motorcycles. In addition the formation sign will be stencilled in a prominent position on the rear of the vehicle.

MIDDLE EAST MARKINGS

1 SA Division had issued their document on vehicle markings dated 24 Oct 1942 with a reference to the earlier markings document compiled in the letter ISAD/Q/13/4 dated 16 Oct 1941. This is a very interesting document as it

gives the descriptions of various formations signs graphically. The series of AoS markings included in this document, as Appendix B is the same as printed in these colour charts supplied with this article.

Divisional HQ's AoS was changes to the Black 99 series on 17 Oct 1942 with the document CRME/27954/GSD.2b - Appendix "D". 13 Corps had already issued their document No 211B/G as far back as 05 March 1942 with these changes as the same series of AoS markings (Black 99).

It is interesting to note that the earlier series forgot about the RASC and "O" services. These were later published in a later document issued by the War Office as 57/Vehicles(A)/648(W. V.3) Enclosure No 8, dated 14 December 1942. To complete this series of AoS this amendment is included here:

AoS Number	AoS Colour	Unit
50	Red and Green Diagonal	HQ Corps Troops R.A.S.C.
51	Red and Green Diagonal	HQ Corps Troops R.A.S.C.
52	Red and Green Diagonal	Corps Troops Cosys
53	Red and Green Diagonal	HQ Corps Tpt Coy
54	Red and Green Diagonal	Gen Tpt Coy
55	Red and Green Diagonal	Cypriot Pack Tpt Coy
56	Red and Green Diagonal	Indian Animal Tpt Coy
57	Red and Green Diagonal	R.A.S.C. Secs for Animal Tpt Coy
58	Red and Green Diagonal	General Tpt Coy
59	Red and Green Diagonal	General Tpt Coy
60	Red and Green Diagonal	General Tpt Coy
61	Red and Green Diagonal	Corps Br Coy
62	Red and Green Diagonal	Spares for R.A.S.C. Units
63	Red and Green Diagonal	Spares for R.A.S.C. Units N.A.C.
64	Red and Green Diagonal	

During 1941 the Middle East Command also issued their Middle East Training Pamphlet No 2 - Part V - Army Tank Brigade Operational Standing Orders. This order is virtually a verbatim copy of the pamphlet for vehicle markings published in 1941.

It is most important to check your photo references with regard to these vehicle markings as they changed from time to time. One can also form a clue as to the period of when the photo was taken. ■

An 8th Army Marmon Herrington armoured car once again demonstrating the challenges of British and Commonwealth markings.





CAMO CORNER - 8th Army Arm of Service Markings

8th Army: Arm of Service Markings

Formation	Sign	Arm of Service
EIGHT ARMY		
13 Corps		
1 Army Bde	◆	35
NZ Div	◆	75
4 Indian Div	◆	71
30 Corps		
7 Armd Div	◆	50
4 Armd Bde	◆	50
1 SA Div	◆	75
22 Gde Bde	◆	99
HQ Oasis Gp (29 Ind Inf Bde)	◆	71
2 SA Div	◆	50
161 Infantry Bde	◆	65
83 L of C Sub Area	◆	50
86 L of C Sub Area	◆	65
87 L of C Sub Area	◆	41
91 L of C Sub Area	◆	49
MATRUH Fortress	◆	45
HQ 2 SA Inf Bde	◆	31
	◆	72

Formation	Sign	Arm of Service
1 SA DIVISION	◆	50
HQ 1 SA INF BDE	◆	65
1 Royal Natal Carbineers	◆	91
1 Transvaal Scottish	◆	80
1 Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles	◆	52
HQ 5 SA INF BDE	◆	58
1 SA Irish	◆	60
2 Regiment Botha	◆	62
3 Transvaal Scottish	◆	89
3 SA Recce Battalion	◆	81
HQ SA DIV ARTY	◆	82
3 SA Field Regt	◆	88
7 SA Field Regt	◆	71
1 SA Anti-Tank Regt	◆	96
HQ 1 SA Light AA Regt	◆	55
Regiment President Steyn (M.G.)	◆	51
HQ 22 GUARDS BDE	◆	65
3 Coldm Gds	?	91
9 R.B. (THR)	?	52

Formation	Sign	Arm of Service
2 SA DIVISION	◆	50
HQ 3 SA INF BDE	◆	65
1 Imperial Light Horse	◆	91
1 Rand Light Inf	◆	80
1 Royal Durban Light Inf	◆	52
HQ 4 SA INF BDE	◆	72
2 Umvoti Mounted Rifles	◆	84
2 Royal Durban Light Inf	◆	75
Kaffrarian Rifles	◆	92
HQ 6 SA INF BDE	◆	72
2 Transvaal Scottish	◆	84
1 SA Police	◆	75
2 SA Police	◆	92
7 SA Recce Battalion	◆	81
HQ 2 SA DIV ARTY	◆	82
1 SA Field Regt	◆	88
2 SA Field Regt	◆	71
5 SA Field Regt	◆	53
2 SA Anti-Tank Regt	◆	96
HQ 2 SA Light AA Regt	◆	55
de Middelandse Regiment (M.G.)	◆	51
HQ 161 INF BDE	?	65
1/4 Essex	?	91
3/7 Rajputns	?	80
4/7 Rajputns	?	52

KEY TO CHARTS

Unit sign applied for but not yet received.

Text in Blue indicates changes by pen as added by persons unknown to complete the chart.

Note: no units AoS has been altered or added, this is as the original document was drawnup.

Formation	Sign	Arm of Service
4 INDIAN DIVISION		50
HQ 5 INDIAN INF BDE		65
1 Buffs		91
3/1 Punjab		80
4/6 Raj Regt		52
5 Ind Inf Bde Anti Tank Coy		83
5 Ind Inf Bde M.G. Coy		?
HQ 7 INDIAN INF BDE		72
1 Royal Sussex		84
4/11 Sikhs		75
4/16 Punjab		92
7 Ind Inf Bde Anti Tank Coy		73
7 Ind Inf Bde M.G. Coy		?
HQ 11 INDIAN INF BDE		58
2 Camerons		60
2/5 Mahratta Light Inf		62
1/6 Raj Regt		89
11 Ind Inf Bde Anti Tank Coy		90
11 Ind Inf Bde M.G. Coy		?
Divisional Cavalry Regiment		81
HQ 4 IND DIV ARTY		82
1 Field Regt		88
25 Field Regt		71
31 Field Regt		53
HQ 57 Light AA Regt		55
NEW ZEALAND DIVISION		50
HQ 4 NZ INF BDE		65
18 Battalion		91
19 Battalion		80
20 Battalion		52
HQ 5 NZ INF BDE		72
21 Battalion		84
22 Battalion		75
23 Battalion		92
HQ 6 NZ INF BDE		58
24 Battalion		60
25 Battalion		62
26 Battalion		89
NZ Cavalry Regiment		81
HQ NZ DIV ARTY		82
4 NZ Field Regt		88
5 NZ Field Regt		71
6 NZ Field Regt		53
7 NZ Anti-Tank Regt		55
27 NZ M.G. Battalion		51
28 Maori Battalion		?

Formation	Sign	Arm of Service
30 CORPS TROOPS		75
60 Field Regt		77
51 Field Regt		89
65 Anti-Tank Regt		47
7 Medium Regt		99
7 ARMoured DIVISION		72
3 City of London Yeomanry		84
4 City of London Yeomanry		75
3 RCN		92
HQ 7 ARMoured BDE		71
7 Hussars		40
2 Royal Tank Regt		86
6 Royal Tank Regt		67
HQ SUPPORT GROUP		84
4 Royal Horse Art		77
102 Anti-Tank Regt		55
1 K.R.R.C.		60
2 RB		87
Divisional Cavalry Regt (11 Hussars)		98
4 SA Armoured Car Regt		43
HQ 1 Light AA Regt		54
HQ 4 ARMoured BDE GROUP		71
3 Royal Tank Regt		?
5 Royal Tank Regt		?
8 Hussars		?
Kings Dragoon Guards		76
2 Royal Horse Art		47
3 Royal Horse Art		55
2 Scots Guards		80
13 CORPS TROOPS		
8 Field Regt		89
54 Medium Regt		99
67 Medium Regt		65
68 Medium Regt		47
73 Anti-Tank Regt		98
1 ARMY TANK BDE		
8 Royal Tank Regiment		40
42 Royal Tank Regiment		86
44 Royal Tank Regiment		67

The Editor takes a look through the contents of Tamiya's new 1:35 scale BT-42 Finnish Army Assault Gun.

OBSOLESCENT ASSAULT

Tamiya's second release in their BT family is the hybrid BT-42 Assault Gun.

The BT-42 was a Finnish vehicle based on the hull of captured Soviet BT-7 light tanks, fitted with a tall, thinly armoured turret fitted and the WWI era British 4.5 inch Mk.II howitzer. 18 of these unmistakable vehicles were produced.

In service, the combination of the ancient gun, the high profile and the thin 15mm armour of the turret meant that the BT-42 was a dismal failure when pitted against Soviet armour. In a single engagement on 9 June 1944, the defence of Vyborg, eight of the nine BT-42s deployed were lost. This disastrous action saw the disbandment of the Finnish Detached Armour Company.

Tamiya's new 1:35 scale BT-42 comprises 285 parts in dark green plastic, 8 parts in clear, one fret of photo-etched parts, 8 small and 12 large polythene caps and a length of string. Markings for three vehicles are also included.

The most obvious new parts are for the distinctive tall turret. The muzzle brake is moulded in one piece, so you won't have to worry about cleaning up a join seam between all those tiny perforations. The perforations are represented as dimples, but if you are feeling very patient you might consider drilling them out. The only interior detail is a basic breech and two seats. The large space and the two tall separate

doors in the rear of the turret would make a nice super-detailing project though.

Other unique elements of the BT-42 are also provided. These include Finnish pattern track guards, stowage boxes and headlights and a standing Finnish crew figure.

The hull represents a BT-7 late version, so there are a number of important new parts here too. The most obvious is the late-style, short-pitch tracks. These new short-pitch tracks are supplied as link and length. These should be fast and straightforward to install. The inclusion of these tracks logically points to the future release of a late version BT-7 too.

The lower hull is supplied as a "flat pack", with separate parts for the hull sides, floor, rear hull and nose. This parts breakdown is necessary to authentically reproduce the characteristic inner and outer hull construction of the Christie suspension design. Assembly jigs are provided for the road wheels and for the photo-etched mesh on the engine deck.

Options include poseable hatches for the turret crew and the driver.

Overall detail is all that we have come to expect from Tamiya. Suspension and running gear is very well represented, while the hull features appropriately raised rivets.

A photo-etched fret includes the large mesh for the radiator grille and narrow vents for the engine deck. The mesh parts are

beautifully presented with an impressive three-dimensional weave effect.

In common with most of their recent releases, Tamiya has included a clear sprue containing not only headlight lenses, but also a clear vision block for the driver's hatch and goggles for the two crew members.

Moulding quality is excellent as usual, but the inside surfaces of the tracks and the hatches are marred with visible ejector pin circles. It is worth considering that these circles are one of the reasons that Tamiya kits fit together so flawlessly, but they do demand extra time for filling and sanding.

Instructions are provided in 27 steps over 12 pages. A separate colour and markings guide is also included, as is a full-colour double-sided sheet of reference photos - a nice touch.

The decal sheet offers markings for three different BT-42s. Two are finished in overall Field Grey, while the third wears the hard-edged three-colour scheme of Moss Green, Sand and Red Brown.

This is not the first BT-42 kit that we have seen in 1:35 scale (Eastern Express released one some years ago) but it is most certainly the most accurate and best detailed. Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-42 will be a great addition for Axis armour modellers. ■

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net



Multimedia parts – string, photo-etch and polythene caps.



Clear parts.



Markings are provided for three vehicles. A double-sided full colour reference sheet is included too.



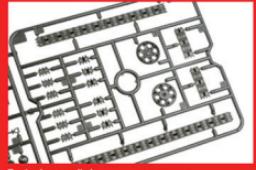
The new turret sides and roof.



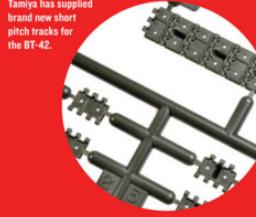
A standing Finnish crew figure is included.



The Finnish-pattern track guards and stowage boxes.



Tamiya has supplied brand-new short pitch tracks for the BT-42.



The characteristic inner and outer hull construction of the Christie suspension.



The read wheels are very nicely detailed.

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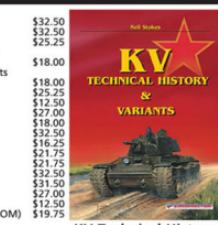
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THE FRENCH CONNECTION

PART TWO – FINISHING AND PAINTING

The Editor finishes construction of Bronco's 1:35 scale Hotchkiss Light Tank H39, and paints the model in a multi-coloured camouflage scheme.



In the first instalment of this short series, I described installing the interior, running gear and tracks of Bronco's 1:35 scale Hotchkiss Light Tank H38/39.

Construction continued from this point mainly according to the instructions.

The kit offers a number of options depending on whether you are building an H38 or an H39, or one of the sub-types based on the serial number range. I was planning to build the fifth sub-type, in the serial range 40913 to 40965. These vehicles featured the engine deck configuration included in the kit (one with lengthwise grille and one widthwise), the long barrel and the trench skid.

Casting numbers were added

to one side of the turret using a set of Archer Fine Transfers' waterslide decals. These worked really well. I was a bit worried that the decal digits would be lost under a coat of paint but they were quite prominent. The waterslide application permitted some adjustment before the decals set too – a real advantage with these small characters.

The turret was textured with Tamiya Surferac. The liquid was brushed on (always use an old brush for this task), allowed to dry for some seconds and then stippled and swirled about with a stiff brush.

A simple folded tarpaulin was made for the rear stowage tray from Kneadatite two-part epoxy putty tape. The mixed putty was

rolled into a thin sheet and the edges cut off with the straight edge of a steel ruler. It was then folded at the edges and folded again several times lengthwise. A second tarp was made for the back of the track guard too.

Assembling the trench skid led to a few anxious moments, but it was nothing that couldn't be fixed with some Tamiya tape and a big strong clamp.

CHAR DE CLOWN

One of the key factors that motivated me to start this project in the first place was the French practice of hard-edged camouflage colours outlined in thin black lines.

After I started building the model, further research suggested

that although this style of camouflage was widely used by the French on many vehicles, it was superseded on the Hotchkiss H39 from around serial number 40692 onward. The configuration of the kit best represents these later H39s, so I reluctantly abandoned my original painting plans.

However, I found another interesting camouflage scheme in Editions Du Barbotin's book, "Hotchkiss H39", which is No. 5 in their excellent Focus series. This vehicle was finished in a base coat of a medium olive drab, with patches of light grey, red brown and brightish medium green over the top. These are not official designs but simply my descriptive interpretation based on the colours used in the artwork.

Only a single side profile was offered, so I tried to match the colours of the artwork and extrapolate the pattern for the rest of the vehicle.

The paint mixes I used were:

- Medium olive drab: 5 parts XF-51 Khaki Drab with 3 parts XF-62 Olive Drab and 2 parts XF-59 Desert Yellow

• Light grey: 1 part Gunze acrylic H334 Barley Grey with 1 part Tamiya XF-57 Buff

• Red brown: Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown

• Medium green: Gunze-Sangyo H422 RLM 82 Bright Green

The lurid colours looked more suited to a clown car than a military vehicle when they were first applied to the model, but I was confident that later weathering would tone them down.

The balance of painting and weathering is covered in the accompanying photos and their captions.

WHEN THE DUST SETTLES...

I walk away from this project with mixed emotions.

On the one hand, I cannot fault the Bronco 1:35 scale Hotchkiss H38/39 kit. It is nicely detailed straight from the box, fits together well and is the most accurate Hotchkiss model currently available. It is also a worthy basis for additional detailing. I really enjoyed scratch building the extra interior elements. If I was building another, I would be tempted to go to town on the engine compartment, as many reference photos show German soldiers peering into open hatches of destroyed and abandoned machines in the aftermath of Fall Gelb.

The WWII Productions tracks performed brilliantly and they look great on the model too.

The paint job got off to a promising start. I was happy enough with the colours themselves, their demarcation and the pattern.

However, I was less satisfied with my heavy dust effect. Although reference photos show many dusty vehicles, I think that I went overboard on this occasion.

Although my figure painting is ordinary at best, it was dismal this time around. The Commander barely passes muster while squinting from a distance of 12 inches, and the two standing figures will be hidden in a dark place until I feel confident to attempt a repaint.

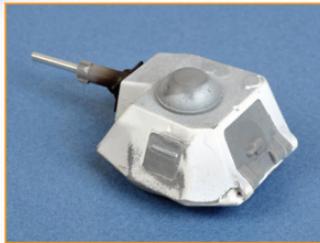
Modelling is always an education process though, and there is no lesson more valuable than the one learnt as a result of trial and error.

I'll just try to make sure there is less error next time! ■

With the fenders attached to the lower hull, it was a simple matter to glue the upper hull in place. A clamp was used to ensure that there were no gaps on the long join between the hull and the fenders.



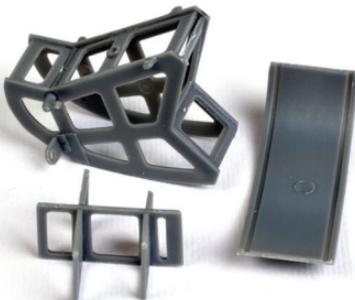
The short barrel for the H38 or the long barrel for the H39 may be built from parts in the kit, but they both use the same metal barrel. Only the breech parts are different. This is the long H39 barrel.



The kit offers the choice of French or German cupolas. I used the French domed version. The rear turret hatch was also carefully trapped between the upper and lower turret halves to ensure that it could be opened after assembly.



The side and front vision slot inserts fitted well.



As I was building a fairly late version, I used the trench skid supplied in the kit. Several reference photos showed this to be fitted to my subject vehicle.



Casting numbers were added to the side of the turret using Archer Fine Transfers' 1:35 scale casting numbers, Item No. ARB8007. Unlike most of Archer's rub-down products, these are waterslide decals. The individual characters were cut out and rubbed onto the surface with the tip of a 2B pencil. Following this, the turret was textured with Tamiya Surfacer.



The painted interior of the turret was masked off with a roll of scrap paper. The turret was mounted onto an old toothbrush using a blob of Blu-Tack, and sprayed with Tamiya's Fine Grey Surface Primer straight from the can.



My set of jeweller's punches come in handy for all sorts of little modelling tasks. The set comprises a wooden handle and 24 punches with different sized tips.



The punch was used to restore the circular detail beside the gun hinge, which was lost during texturing. Unfortunately, I applied too much pressure and pushed the metal pin clean through the other side! Note the cast texture now visible on the primed plastic too.

"My set of jeweller's punches come in handy for all sorts of little modelling tasks. The set comprises a wooden handle and 24 punches with different sized tips... ,"

The curved bottom cover of the trench skid proved to be a tricky fit, so Tamiya tape and an Irwin clamp were used to hold it in place while the glue set.



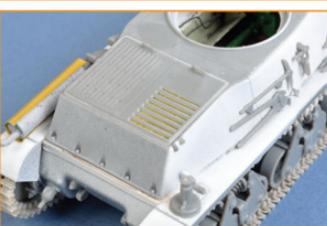
Bronco supplies a full compliment of tools. These include a shovel, a pick, bolt cutters, a mallet, jack and handle.



The trench skid, now with the glue set and ready to be installed.

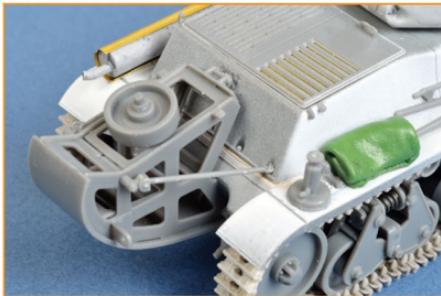
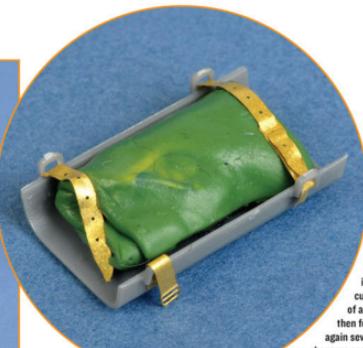


The engine deck cover was not glued in place, but the open slots of the vents were masked off by applying Tamiya tape to the underside of the part. A tiny ball of Blu-Tack is holding the panel in place.

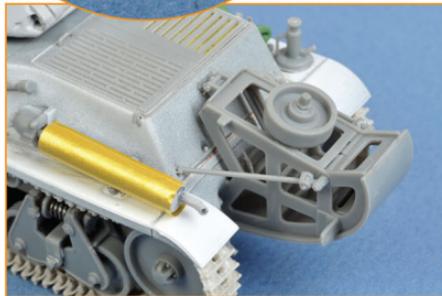


The kit includes the correct exhaust configuration. The heat shield is a photo-etched metal part. It is quite soft and easy to roll into the right shape. Although it is now hidden by the shield, the muffler has been textured with Tamiya Surfacer.





A second tarpaulin was made for the rear fender from leftover putty. The trench skid is held in place partly by the two side struts. It is best to install these at the same time as the skid itself, as the fit can be a little tricky.





A crew always brings life to a model. These figures are from Nemrod and Blast Models. The standing figures each offer alternative heads, while the seated Commander is provided in just two pieces.



The Commander figure has been designed for Tamiya's 1:35 scale Char B1 bis but test-fitting showed that he would fit on the rear hatch of the Hotchkiss turret without modification.



The shoes of the standing figures, the posterior of the seated Commander and the necks of the two heads were drilled out to accommodate toothpicks. These were used as handles during the painting process.



All the figures were prepared using Tamiya's Extra Fine White primer. Tamiya XF-15 Flesh came next.



Most of the other colours came from the Vallejo acrylic range, and were applied by brush. The basic, unshaded colours look very stark here.



The entire model was given a base coat of Tamiya Fine Grey Surface Primer straight from the can before the tracks and running gear were sprayed with Tamiya acrylic XF-1 Flat Black. The black paint is a good shading base, as well as an appropriate tone for later weathering of the tracks.

The camouflage scheme was found in Editions Du Barbotin's book, "Hotchkiss H39", which is No. 5 in their excellent Focus series. Only a single side profile was offered, so I tried to match the colours of the artwork and extrapolate the pattern for the rest of the vehicle.



The profile's base colour did not match any standard paint in my drawers so I mixed approximately 5 parts XF-51 Olive Drab with 2 parts XF-62 Olive Drab and 2 parts XF-59 Desert Yellow. This looked pretty good on the vehicle.



The light grey was warmer than most of the shades that I had so I mixed Gunze acrylic H334 Barley Grey with Tamiya XF-57 Buff in roughly equal proportions. The shade still looked a bit cool on the model, but the washes and weathering to follow would warm it up - or obscure it altogether!

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The red brown shade was easy. I simply used – you guessed it – Tamiya XF-64 Red Brown straight from the bottle (thinned with about 60% isopropylene alcohol). The camouflage pattern is starting to take shape.



The brightish medium green colour in Gunze H422 RLM 02 Bright Green – a late-war Luftwaffe colour – straight from the bottle. The camouflage on this side of the vehicle was guided by the pattern on the book's colour profile.



The camouflage pattern on the remainder of the Hotchkiss was pure conjecture based on the general shapes and proportions of the colours used on the other side.



The lurid colours do make the model look a bit like a clown car (char de clown, perhaps?) but it will be toned down later on. At this stage, the tool handles, heads and packs are picked out with acrylic paints and a fine brush.



Vallejo Panzer Aces 330 Old Wood was used for the handles, followed by a thin streaky coat of Tamiya X-26 Clear Orange. The metal parts of the tools were brush painted a 50:50 mix of Vallejo XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.



I found several photos of a vehicle in the correct serial number range for this camouflage scheme – White 50. I modified the kit decals to a similar style using a white paint marker.



The specific serial number for my subject vehicle was obtained by cutting up a couple of the kit-supplied serial decals. Carrier film is obvious here but it disappeared completely after a brushed coat of Solvaset and a flat coat.

The model was sprayed with Future floor polish before the decals were applied. The crude turret numbers are smaller than those on the vehicle, but closer in style than the standard kit decals. The paint marker proved itself indelible – to soaking in water and decal solution at least – and the decals performed well.





The crude style of the digits is obvious here.



The same method was used to obtain the serial number for the rear of the hull, although access was somewhat limited by the trench skid and the stowage tray.



Sin Industries' Filter No. P242, TAN for Tritonal Camo, was brushed sparingly over the entire vehicle while it was still glossy. The effect is not dramatic, but it begins to break up any solid segments of colour and define structural elements of the model.



Weathering, Stage 2 is a selective application of AK Interactive's Dark Brown enamel wash, Item No. AK-045. This is carefully applied to very specific areas such as raised rivets and bolts, recessed panel lines and other structural features. The effect is fairly subtle, but definitely worthwhile.



A couple of thin layers of Testor's Dulcote knocks the gloss off the model quite nicely. This weathered version of the camouflage colours is just what I was working towards.

The wheel rims and tracks were brush painted with a 50:50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown prior to the weathering and the flat coat. I was pretty happy with the pattern on the hypothetical side of the vehicle.



Dozens of reference photos show these Hotchkiss tanks to be heavily covered with dust to the extent that any camouflage pattern is almost indiscernible. I did not want to go quite that far, but a dusty finish was obviously the order of the day. I started with a very thin overspray of the lower surfaces and hull sides with Tamiya XF-57 Buff.

Modelspec

Bronco 1:35 scale Hotchkiss Light Tank H38/39
Kit No. CB-35019

Accessories Used

WWII Productions Item No. 35024 - Hotchkiss H38/39 tracks for Trumpeter and Bronco kits (email wwprod@netspace.net.au)
Archer Fine Transfers' 1:35 scale casting numbers, Item No. AR88007

Tools and Modelling Products:

Kroenadale two-part epoxy putty tape
Iwata HP-CR Airbrush
Aztek A470 Airbrush
Waldron Precision Punch and Die Set
Jewellers' Punch Set
The Chopper by North West Short Line
Tamiya Extra Thin Cement
Tamiya Surface
Revell Contact Cement
Gator's Grip acrylic glue
Evergreen plastic sheet and 1/16" rod
Darice Craft Designer JP28 286 Beading Wire Silver
Scrap from sprue
Post-it Note
Thin copper sheet

Paints and Finishing Products:

Tamiya Acrylics - X-26 Clear Orange; X-28 Park Green; X-1 Flat Black; X-2 Flat White; X-3 Flat Yellow; X-7 Flat Red; X-14 J.A. Grey; X-15 Flat Flesh; X-51 Khaki Drab; X-54 Bark Sea Grey; X-57 Buff; X-59 Desert Yellow; X-62 Olive Drab; X-64 Red Brown; X-69 NATO Black.
Gunze Acrylics - H334 Barley Grey; H422 RLM 82 Bright Green.
Tamiya Grey Surface Primer
Tamiya Fine White Spray Primer
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics - 301 Light Rust; 302 Dark Rust; 330 Old Wood
Pencils - Brown Artist's Pencil; 2B Graphite Pencil.
Model Master Flat Clear Lacquer
Testor's Dullcote Lacquer
Future Floor Polish
Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints - 25 Lamp Black; 35 Raw Umber
Mig Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture; Light Rust Effects; Standard Rust Effects.
Mig Pigments - P025 Standard Rust; P414 Track Brown; P416 Fresh Rust.
Sin Industries Ritter - P242 for Tritonal Camo
AK Interactive Enamel Wash - AK 045 Dark Brown for Green Vehicles

- Good fit; a useful start for interior detail; individual track links; looks accurate; interesting subject.
- Some ejector pins in difficult to remove places; interior is partial only.

Available from

Bronco kits are available online from Hannants www.hannants.co.uk

Rating



Next, a wet slurry of MIG pigments was brushed onto the tracks, the running gear and a few selected spots on the hull. Once this was dry - easy to tell as the colour becomes much paler - the excess powder was scrubbed off with a stiff brush.

A Q Tip dipped in isopropylene alcohol was used to strip back the dusty coat along the heavy wear areas at the top edges of the hull. Note the particularly heavy application of dust on the sides of the trench skid and the rear hull.

Profile of a Hotchkiss H39. This is the side covered by the profile, although the profusion of dust obscures much of the pattern on the hull side. Despite the particularly dusty vehicles in the reference photos, I was a bit disappointed that much of the work that went into the camouflage and weathering was effectively hidden.

The driver's visor was attached, effectively completing the model.



If I had been disappointed by my camouflage finish of the model, I was positively despondent with my painting of the figures. Some days you're the dog; others you're the bone...



"The lurid colours looked more suited to a clown car than a military vehicle when they were first applied to the model, but I was confident that later weathering would tone them down...,"

The folds and creases in the tarpaulins had been accentuated with the airbrush and washes.



A little more dust was scrubbed from the tool heads and handles to reveal the timber and metal shades.

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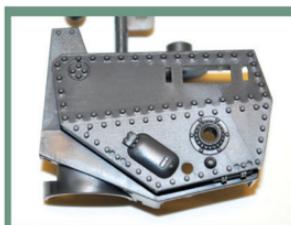
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Instructions and decals.



The resin components of the "Fury of Ivan" Walker.



Detail of one of the main resin castings.



Resin ammunition boxes for the Ivan Walker.

WALKING THE DOG

Scott Taylor examines two of the latest releases from the Dust Universe – a 1:48 scale Soviet Walker and a rather exotic character with her pets.

Dust" is a series of graphic novels created by Paolo Parente that creates an alternate universe where Germany, aided by technology recovered from a crashed alien spaceship in Antarctica, is able to end the Second World War in a stalemate that creates three major powers: The Axis powers, the Anglo-American Allies, and the Sino-Soviet Union. Among other things, the alien technology leads to the development of "walking tanks" that combine recognizable elements from real World War II vehicles with platforms that remind one of the AT-ST Scout Walkers from *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*.

This 1:48 mixed-media kit depicts a captured German walking tank that has been modified by the Soviet Union and pressed back into service. The model is actually designed to be used as a wargaming miniature with the "Dust Tactics" game, and includes a gaming base, data card for the game, and a 12 page "Dust" comic to introduce the modeller to the "Dust" universe.

In a nutshell, this model is a two-legged robot with a gun pod on each side of the body that holds a 152mm Mi-20S gun, the same weapon used in the Su-152/ISU-152.

The kit consists of two sprues of injection-moulded parts and approximately 30 resin parts, all moulded in dark grey. Moulding of the injection parts is good, with nice rivet detail. The resin parts are very well done, with no warpage and small pour plugs. The 152mm barrels are very straight and nice clean mouldings. Their muzzle brakes are separate pieces and, although hollow, the gas slots are solid and would have to be carefully cut out. Aftermarket metal gun barrels would look great on this model! There are plenty of opportunities to further detail the model, including engine screens, crew figures, antennas, weld seams and hydraulic lines on the legs.

Fit of the parts appears to be good, but there will be seams to clean up on the legs and body. The model is designed to be fully articulated, so you could pose the legs crossing uneven terrain, turn the body and independently elevate the weapons pods. The

commander's hatch can also be positioned open or closed.

The instruction sheet is a simple four page colour affair, with assembly depicted in three steps; anybody who has built a Warhammer kit will recognize the style. Although the plastic parts in the kit are numbered on the sprue, none of the part numbers are indicated in the diagrams, nor are the plastic vs. resin pieces identified. Additionally, some of the parts that need to be assembled are shown already in place in the instructions; fortunately, construction is straightforward, and an experienced modeller should have no problems.

Although a decal sheet is included, it is generic with American and German markings only; the modeller will have to either paint Soviet markings or scrounge them from the spares box. The decal sheet is clearly printed and in register, however.

This kit is recommended for armour modellers wishing to let their imaginations run loose and have fun painting and weathering.

The Dust universe is also populated by a number of strong

female characters that might remind people who grew up in the 1970s of "Lisa - She Wolf of the SS" – tall, long-legged, buxom, and very dangerous. This 1:35 figure depicts one of these Nazi femmes fatales: Major Tina Baumann, head of the Abwehr for the Neu Deutsches Afrika Korps. She wears a German tropical uniform with lace-up boots (the high heels are not standard issue, however!). Optional heads are included, one with an officer's cap and a ponytail and the other with loose hair and a side cap.

Baumann has a pet hyena with which she apparently likes to intimidate prisoners. The chain leash is moulded as part of the figure's right arm, but the figure might benefit from having this replaced with a length of real chain. There are actually two hyenas included in the kit (only one is shown in the photos), one snarling and pulling on its chain, the other walking. The facial expression and pose of the snarling hyena in particular are very well executed.

The parts (the arms and head are separate) have locating tabs for positive fit, and the fit is good between the parts. No base is included, but the hyenas' feet do have locating pins that would help to anchor them to groundwork.

If you are looking for something different to build, this figure definitely fits the bill! It is also highly recommended. ■



Resin parts are individually separated inside vacform packaging.



The hyenas are cast in two parts each. Casting quality and detail is superb.



"Tina and Hyâne" – quite an unconventional subject!

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STREET GLADIATOR

Jose Brito builds MIG Productions' brand new 1:35 scale armed Toyota Hilux full resin kit.

"Toyota Hilux. Built for work, hardened in war". Well, this might be a good slogan for Toyota.

In recent years, and in particular during the revolution in Libya, we are constantly flooded with images of armed pickups fighting among regular troops, guerrillas, Special Forces. In fact, the ongoing Libyan civil war is already widely known as the "Pickup War". The Libyan rebels are using thousands of pickups to fight the Gaddafi troops and they are being armed with all kind of weapons. Also, these expedient military pickups are being armoured with steel plates and metal side shields.

The pickup is the vehicle of choice for many rebel fighters as it is cheap, lightweight, fast, manoeuvrable and may be easily adapted with all kinds of guns and extra armour. In conclusion, a pickup may easily be transformed into an all-terrain military vehicle. It can perform scout, attack and even search and destroy missions. They can flood a battlefield and become a real nightmare for the enemy. No matter if they have tanks, planes or heavy artillery, pickups are like a modern plague and they will hunt you down!



THE MIG PRODUCTIONS DAMAGED HILUX IN 1/35

The new 1:35 scale Toyota Hilux from MIG Productions is a full resin kit.

The detail is top quality and the resin casting flawless. Only some fine flash needs to be removed. This will be easily achieved with the help of fine sandpaper and a toothbrush.

There are also some resin casting blocks that needed to be removed before construction can commence. This may be dislodged using specialised tools. For this task, one of the solutions is using a fine razor saw. We must not cut the block very near the piece. The cut must be made about 1mm from the final piece. The remaining resin block must be sanded off; otherwise we may damage the piece or lose some of the detail.

For some bigger blocks or pieces we will need a bigger saw. In the case of the cabin, there is a huge block that needs to be removed. With a bigger saw this only takes a few seconds. Like in the smaller pieces, the cut must be made about 1mm from the final piece. The remaining resin waste material may then be sanded off. ▶



A large saw is helpful for removing the chunky casting block from the back of the cab.



An old toothbrush is all that is required to remove the fine resin flash from some of the smaller resin parts.



A razor saw makes short work of the modest casting blocks on the wheels and other smaller parts.



Sanding sticks are used to clean up the edges of the resin parts.



Fine metal files are handy tools to have for resin kits too.



The final cleanup is achieved with the tip of a new No.11 hobby blade.



A little water on sandpaper makes a safe surface for sanding resin parts. The wet sandpaper prevents carcinogenic resin dust from billowing into the air.



A pin vise is used to drill locating holes in the rear tray frame. These will be pinned to the joining parts to ensure a strong bond.



Different types of tools are used in order to get the best results and to reach all the difficult areas.

Smaller resin blocks may also be removed by using sandpaper. In this case I used coarse 120 grit sandpaper.

As we all know, resin dust can be very dangerous to our lungs and we must avoid it at all costs. Using a good mask is not enough. We must really avoid the dust but fortunately this is easy. All we have to do is drop a small amount of water over the sandpaper and then sand the piece in regular and gentle circular movements. The water will collect all the resin dust. Just in case, whenever working with resin, we should also always use a good mask. Not a paper or a cheap mask. I mean something like 3M with dust filters. Remember,

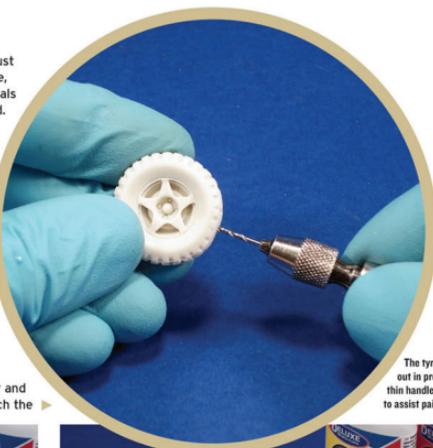
our health has no price.

Being a full resin kit we must use a strong glue. In this case, my choice was Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot and Rocket Rapid. These glues are super-strong and ideal to work as capillary, with the thin glue drawn into the fine gaps between the parts.

Before applying the primer, a dry fit is necessary in order to see if everything fits okay. The fit of my kit was very good and only a minor amount of filler was used.

PAINTING

I built the model in sub-assemblies. This makes the painting process much easier and will allow the airbrush to reach the



The tyres are drilled out in preparation for a thin handle to be inserted to assist painting later on.



Deluxe Materials Rocket Hot and Rocket Rapid are super-strong.



A fine steel applicator is used to deliver the glue to a specific area, and the capillary action draws the glue into the join.



The model was built in sub-assemblies. The parts are just taped together at the moment to confirm fit.

This makes the painting process much easier and will allow the airbrush to reach the most inaccessible areas.



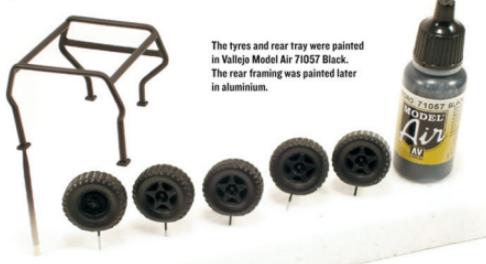
The sub-assemblies are primed in several thin coats of Vallejo Grey Primer.



The interior parts were sprayed Vallejo Model Air 71032 Golden Brown.



The kit provides thin metal wire and a jig to make the stowage frame on top of the front cab.



The tyres and rear tray were painted in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black. The rear framing was painted later in aluminium.



Interior cab details were picked in colours from the Vallejo Model Color range.



Once the interior was painted and thoroughly dry, it was protected with the help of MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Liquid Masking.



Tristar masking tape was also used to blank off the interior in preparation for the outside spray job.



The wheels were painted using Vallejo Model Air 71065 Steel (previously painted in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black), then the surrounding area was brushed in Vallejo Model Color 950 black.



A mask was cut with the aid of a Royal Model metal stencil.



The mask was applied over the rim.



Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black was airbrushed over the wheel and mask.



When the mask is removed, we are presented with a sharply painted tyre and wheel rim. Note the handle mounted to the tyre in this sequence of photos.



The entire body is sprayed in another overall coat of Vallejo Grey Primer.



The basic colour of the body is Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black. The paint was sprayed in several thin coats in order to maintain the fine surface detail. Exterior details were picked out in colours from the Vallejo Model Color range.



Battle damage and scars were applied with the help of a small sponge and finished using a very fine brand new brush.



Further weathering was achieved with MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Oils.



Several shades were used in order to achieve a more realistic look.



The oil paints were thinned heavily with 502 Abteilung's odourless turpentine.

► most inaccessible areas.

As usual, my models are primed in Vallejo acrylic primers. In this case I used Vallejo Grey Primer 74601. Vallejo primers dry very fast and are very smooth, ideal for airbrushing. They should be airbrushed in several thin coats in order to protect the fine surface detail.

The tyres and rear tray were painted in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black. The rear framing was later painted aluminium.

The interior parts were sprayed Vallejo Model Air 71032 Golden Brown, then all the interior details were picked out in colours from the Vallejo Model Color range.

The kit also provides thin metal wire and a jig to make the stowage frame on top of the front cab. This can be a tricky process, but in the end it looks great and will be an improvement to the model.

Once the interior was painted and thoroughly dry, it was protected with the help of Tristar's masking tape and MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Liquid Masking.

The model was then primed in Vallejo Grey Primer 74601 and, once dry, airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black. In both



cases, the paint was applied in several layers in order to maintain the fine surface detail.

Several exterior details were picked out in colours from the Vallejo Model Color range. At the same time, all the battle damage and scarring was applied with the help of a small sponge and finished using a very fine brand new brush.

Further weathering was achieved with MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Oils. Several shades were used in order to achieve a more realistic look. ►

The final effect is a veteran vehicle with plenty of wear and tear.



The initial masks were removed, but the windscreens were carefully masked again where the windscreens wipers pass.



The windscreens were then airbrushed with heavily diluted Vallejo Model Air 71075 Sand at very low pressure.



The sandy shade may be worked with a small flat brush moistened in alcohol. This will add an extra touch of realism.



A soft graphite pencil was used to achieve a metallic appearance over the Vallejo base coat on the machine gun.

Once most of the weathering done and dry, masks were gently removed. Extra care is needed in order to not damage anything.

The windscreen was masked again but this time only where the windscreen wipers pass. It was then airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71075 Sand. This must be airbrushed in a heavily thinned mix and at very low pressure. Once the sandy shade has dried, it can be worked with a small flat brush

moistened in alcohol. This adds an extra touch of realism.

The main gun was painted in Vallejo Model Color. A soft graphite pencil was used to achieve a metal look. This is as simple as passing the pencil several times over the desired spots and then gently removing the excess.

Dealing with the wheels need not be a nightmare. I painted the rims in Vallejo Model Air 71065 Steel (previously painted in Vallejo

Model Air 71057 Black). Then the surrounding area was brushed in Vallejo Model Color 950 black. Once dry, a round mask was applied over the rim. This mask must have a larger diameter than the rim and can be easily obtained with the help of a Royal Model metal stencil. Once the mask in place, Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black was airbrushed. When this black coat was dry, the mask was removed.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

For the weathering and finishing, several pigments from the MIG Productions were applied and set in place with MIG Productions' Pigment fixer. The part of the wheel in contact with the ground was rubbed with a finger so that the parts of the tire in contact with the ground was exposed. This process is very simple and provides very convincing results.

Several pigment colours from



For weathering and finishing, several pigments from the MIG Productions were applied and set in place with MIG Productions' Pigment fixer.



In the end, all the pigments are fixed with MIG Productions Pigment Fixer.



The part of the wheel in contact with the ground was rubbed with a finger so that the parts of the tire in contact with the ground will be exposed.



the MIG Productions catalogue were used. Several colours must be used in order to achieve a more realistic look. In the meantime we must take some care. The colours must be accurate and in the right spots. Also, we must not overdo this process; otherwise our model will look inaccurate and unrealistic.

In the end, all the pigments are fixed with MIG Productions Pigment Fixer.

CONCLUSION

MIG Productions is already a legend in the modelling world. Their standard is very high, but they keep pushing it higher.

MIG Productions' 1:35 scale Damaged Modern Pickup Hilux is a real pleasure to build. The resin casting is top class, the fit ultra nice and in the end we can add a very cool and original model to our collection. ■

Modelspec

MIG Productions 1:35 scale Damaged Modern Pick-up Hilux, Veteran Warrior Item MP 35-292

Materials Used

- Deluxe Materials glue solutions
- Resin parts
- Plastic card
- Metal parts
- Royal Model metal stencil
- Plus Model Lead Wire

Paints and Finishing Products

- Vallejo primers, acrylics, pastes and thinners
- MIG Productions oils, washes, filters, pigments and thinners
- Winsor & Newton oil colours and thinners
- Graphite soft pencil
- Plus Model lead wire

References

Several Internet sites and forums

Original subject; high quality casting; innovative approach.

This is not a kit for the beginner. Some experience with resin will be necessary.

Available from

MIG Productions products are available online from their website www.migproductions.com

The aluminium frame in the back offers a nice contrast to the grimy main colour.



MIG Productions' 1:35 scale Hilux Warrior kit was a pleasure to build, and is a truly relevant subject today.



Rating



Diary Dates

November 5th-6th

DENMARK MODEL SHOW
The Denmark model show / competition will be held at: Esbjerg åben Gammelby Fritidscenter, Grønvangsvej Esbjerg.
For more info look at web www.esbjergmodelbygerforening.dk There will be a lot of merchandise from businesses and private traders. Normally there are 500-750 models in competition so it is Denmark's biggest show.

November 5th

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF DESERT STORM MODEL CONTEST
The 20th Anniversary of Desert Storm Model Contest will be held at the Rutherford County Agricultural Centre, 315 John Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 on 5 November, 2011.

For additional information, please check the website: www.ipmsmiddletennessee.com

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For further information contact Robert Lane at: elanlane13@tesco.net

January 15

BOLTON IPMS 2012 MODEL SHOW
The Bolton IPMS Annual Model Show will be held on Sunday 15 January 2012 at St Joseph's RC High School, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 6HW.
Show times are 10am to 4pm. Our 2012 theme is Winners & Losers.
Admission: Adults £3, Children £1.50, Family ticket £6
For further information please visit www.boltonipms.com

February 25th

ON-TRACK 2012
Following the cancellation of the 'Universal Model Show' booking at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Harold Hanna will be taking over the now vacant date of Saturday February 25th for "On Track 2012". Any questions, requests for booking forms or suggestions should be addressed to Harold at: on.track@live.co.uk

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Incoming

VOYAGER MODEL

1:35 SCALE PHOTO-ETCHED ACCESSORY ROUNDUP

PE35420: WWII GERMAN SCHWERE PLATTFORMWAGEN UPGRADE (FOR THE TRUMPETER KIT)

PEA227: WWII GERMAN KING TIGER INITIAL PRODUCTION SQUARED EXHAUST WITH GRILLS

PE35409: GERMAN PZ.KPFW.IV AUSF. G UPDATE (FOR THE DRAGON KIT)

PE35408: GERMAN PANZER IV "WIRBELWIND UPDATE (FOR THE DRAGON KIT)

PE35195: US WILLYS JEEP UPDATE WITH ADD ON ARMOUR (FOR THE TAMYA KIT)

PE35093: GERMAN MOTORCYCLE R-12 UPDATE (FOR THE ZVEZDA KIT)

Voyager updates, in my opinion, offer the modeller a great product at a great price and these sets are no exception.

The first set [PE35420] for this month is a set for the recently released Trumpeter German flat bed rail car. This update provides three photo-etched frets together with 26 turned brass parts and 5 well-cast resin pieces. One logically laid out page of instructions cover 35 construction sequences and covers most of the detail on the exterior of the rail car. The photo-etch is very well done, with clearly defined bend marks in evidence. To be honest, these additions would look fantastic when done but will be very time consuming (but then again, what etch isn't!). The turned brass parts are a wonderful addition and a far better option than the kit parts. Overall, this is a great set and would add a great deal to the already excellent (but somewhat lacking) Trumpeter kit.

The second set [PEA227] is a small but nonetheless very well detailed option for anyone wanting to produce an initial production version of the German King Tiger with the Porsche Turret. Three very well cast pieces are included that reproduce the distinctive squared off exhaust pipes seen in this series of vehicles. To round off the set a very fine set of mesh screens is included and would greatly enhance any model they were fitted too. Both sets come highly recommended.

Set No. PE35409 is for Dragon's rendition of the Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf. G. This set offers two photo etch frets together with 1 resin pieces, 24 turned brass parts, 2 lengths of wire, one length of tow rope and two lengths of plastic rod. Five logically laid out pages of instructions cover 66 construction sequences and provide most of the detail on the exterior of the vehicle. The spare road wheel brackets are included, as are the splash guards around the turret base. This feature is often missed with etch upgrades on the Panzer IV and is pleasing to see. The resin castings are very well produced with no air bubbles present. Overall, this is a great set and would add a great deal to the already excellent Dragon kit.

Set No. PE35408 is for Dragon's quite superb Wirbelwind kit. Given the base kit is so complete I was left wondering how on earth it could be improved upon. But true to form Voyager has managed to either replace or improve upon the kit parts provided. This set comprises a whopping 14 photo etch frets together with 20 turned brass parts, two lengths of wire, one length of tow rope and two lengths of plastic rod. Seven pages of instructions cover well over 100 construction sequences and includes most of the detail on the interior (where seen) and exterior of the vehicle. It's the little details that make this set a winner, from the link drive on the gun to the spent and live shells. Overall, this is a simply outstanding set. Photo-etched sets, don't come much better than this.

Voyager set PE35195 is for Tamiya's Jeep. The set includes four photo-etched frets together with two lengths of wire, one photo negative film for the instrument gauges and windscreens "glass" and one length of plastic rod. The instructions are covered in 69 construction steps. What this set offers is all the detail you would ever need for a standard Jeep together with the inclusion of the so-called armour protection package as seen on some jeeps during the "Battle of the Bulge" and a fairly well done field radio update package.

The last set [PE35093] to be reviewed this month is for the Zvezda R-12 Kit. While the base kit may at first glance be a daunting detail project this set may well help, not to mention do wonders for your sanity. The main problem with any injection motorcycle kits is, of course, the spokes. There are a few ways to improve them with the most common being photo-etch. Most photo-etch for this is either too thick to bend or the spokes are just not fine enough. On this set, however, the spokes are fine and the sheet thin enough to bend in to the rather complex saucer like shape that needs to be achieved. While I like the set I think the inclusion of a resin rim may have made this set, but alas, this is not included. The rest of the set concerns itself with the three storage bags on the outside of the bike and sidecar combination.

As with all photo-etch, the building and attachment can be tedious but at the same time rewarding. These sets however, are well done and easy to construct.

All of these sets will enhance the base kits designed for and come highly recommended.

Thanks to Voyager Model for the samples www.voyagermodel.com
Luke Pitt



PE35093



TEZ040

VOYAGER MODEL

1:35 SCALE SCRIBING TEMPLATES

Scribing of fine lines and producing shapes or curves on plastic can be a frustrating exercise. From experience, a good set of stencils is essential and does ease the pain somewhat. It is pleasing then that Voyager has seen fit to expand their line of scribing templates to make this process a little easier. The most current sets include:

TEZ037: SCRIBING TEMPLATE SET 8

TEZ038: SCRIBING TEMPLATE SET 9

TEZ039: SCRIBING TEMPLATE SET 10

TEZ040: SCRIBING TEMPLATE SET 11

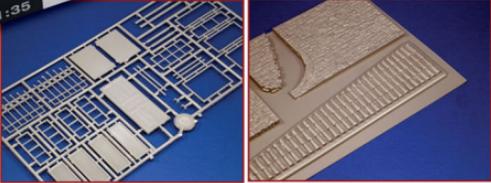
All of these sets offer the modeller different shapes and guides to produce (in some instances) quite complex scribing designs. Set 8 for instance offers a set of round disks with holes around the outer rim to produce an access hatch for example. Set 9 has a series of rounded square shapes that would be almost impossible to produce without the aid of a template. Set 11 consists of a series of French curves that will come in handy for curved objects.

These sets offer the modeller another set of tools that will make the building and detail experience just that much easier.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Voyager Model for the samples
www.voyagermodel.com

Luke Pitt



MINIART

1:35 SCALE ITALIAN VILLAGE DIORAMA

ITEM NO. 36008

MiniArt from Ukraine is one of the most original, prolific and busy modelling companies at the moment. Being a diorama modeller myself, I am very happy and excited by their new releases. They already have a huge catalogue of buildings and ruins, but they keep pushing their limits and, thankfully for the modelling community, they keep releasing lovely items like this new 1:35 scale Italian Village Diorama. In fact this type of architecture is very common not only in Italy, but also in Portugal, Spain, France and the ex-Yugoslavia region.

Detail is excellent and once assembled and painted it will look stunning. This set may be complemented with many other items from MiniArt catalogue and can be used in several types of scenarios like World War One, World War Two, ex-Yugoslavia conflict, civil scenarios... Imagination is your only limit.

This can also be a base for the MiniArt's new release, Italian Tank Crew set, Item 35093.

In conclusion, this is another super release from this Ukrainian company and a must have for the most demanding diorama modeller.

Highly Recommended.

MiniArt products are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creative-models.co.uk

Jose Brito

LIVE RESIN

1:35 SCALE MODERN WEAPONS AND ACCESSORIES

Today, no one doubts that we are living the "Golden Age" of scale modelling. Every day we have new companies, new kits, new extra details... but from times to time a company appears that leaves everyone astonished.

Live Resin, a new brand from Russia, is one of those companies. Their modern weapons and accessories are absolutely fantastic. The detail is stunning and the casting flawless.

They utilize modern advanced 3D modelling and rapid prototyping last generation technology. As they are experts in both history and technology, their products are some of the most accurate reproductions of original items you can find anywhere on the market around the world.

Despite being a new brand, they already have more than 350 models and their catalogue keeps growing. Their website also deserves a tour and there you will find a huge amount of information about weapons, accessories combinations, 3D renders and reference pictures. Their website is well organised and will certainly become a useful reference source for all the modern subjects modellers. Thanks to Live Resin for the samples reviewed.

Highly Recommended.
For more details, please visit: www.live-resin.com
Jose Brito



MODEL SCENE

SUITABLE FOR VARIOUS SCALES LANDSCAPING AND FOLIAGE SETS

Everyone who has seen my work probably knows that I am a diorama builder. Almost all of my models are displayed in dioramas or bases. My favourite scenarios are the nature ones and in my opinion are the most challenging.

With that in mind, Model Scene products from Czech Republic are always my first choice.

Their ready to use items are just fantastic and their most recent releases must be seen to be believed.

All we have to do is cut them into the desired shape and place them over a base. They are very workable and can be adjusted into a wide range of terrains. You can use them in small bases, vignettes or even in big dioramas. Items like the "Forest Base - pine Wood" are just stunning.

Model Scene also have in their catalogue ready to use wooden fences. They are available in several shapes and type of fences and if we want we can paint them into the desired color or even apply all kinds of weathering. They are laser cut and the detail and texture is ultra fine.

Another great item from their catalogue is their laser cut plants. Like all the other items, they have a huge collection of items and all of them are lovely.

Highly Recommended.
For more details please visit: www.model-scene.com
Jose Brito





FIRST VALENTINE

MiniArt continues to expand upon the Valentine family with this, their latest rendition of the Mk.I, and a set of crew figures added into the box to populate it.

Just in case you are unaware this is in fact a Bronco tooling so you know that you are getting a quality kit. There are approximately 790 parts to it, with just over 70 unused, 75 going into the figures and 216 into the track links. Detail is nice and sharp throughout with all parts being flash free, and I should also add that the knock-out pin marks are all hidden. Markings for six vehicles are provided, two for the mainland UK and four for the Desert campaign. The figures themselves are from the previously released set 35071 'British Soldiers Tank Riders' and depict 4 infantrymen and 1 crew member.

Let me first get my one and only criticism of the kit out of the way. When you open the box all of the sprues are tightly packed in one plastic bag whose height matches that of the box exactly. This has had the unfortunate effect of deforming the upper hull and bending the fenders upwards and curving the engine deck. That latter issue will cause me headaches if I want to display the rear hatches open to show off the radiators and transmission. I will (probably) be able to bend it back to shape, but I shouldn't have to. Better packaging certainly would not go amiss.



Personal gear.

Moaning aside, let's get down to the kit. The instructions are fairly clear and come in 61 (yes, 61!) steps. They start with the internal details, which comprise of a driver's station at the front and the transmission/radiators at the back. As with my review of the Archer the same comments apply, in that if you want the engine hatches shut (which you may have to if your hull is as deformed as mine) there is no use in building the transmission parts. Doing that will also cut out 7 assembly steps.

We then move onto the suspension. You get a spare set of road wheels in this kit, and the suspension parts are very well detailed. There is an issue, debated on the Internet forums, about the size and spacing of the road wheels. As no aftermarket producer has stepped up to the plate I personally ignore this – it is not that apparent. The track links are lovely, and having built all of them for the Archer I can confirm that their fit is precise.

The upper hull is festooned with detail and, referring to my photos of Bovington's Valentine II, nothing has been missed. You may want to replace the clasps on the bins with etch, but the plastic parts are good enough. With my warped hull it will be fun fitting the turret ring, but I shall persevere. Optional front and rear fenders are provided but the instructions do not tell you which vehicle each option refers to, so consult your references.

When you get to the turret there is a nicely detailed gun

Graham Tetley examines the latest in MiniArt's growing family of 1:35 scale Valentine tanks, which also includes a set of four infantry and a crew figure.



Here you can see the warpage on the upper hull of this sample.



Front hull detail.



The new road wheels.



Road wheel detail.



Turret roof.



Turret sides. The one on the right is not required for this kit.



The weapons on the figures' sprue.



Lower hull detail.



Optional fender.



Four nicely printed decal options are included, but some of the detail markings are missing.



GENERAL STUART

AI Bowie checks out the latest appearance of the 1:35 scale M3A1 Stuart by Italeri, this time with four new marking options.

The M3A1 was a development of the venerable M3 Honey and had a number of improvements arrived at as a result of combat use by the British in the western desert. A welded hull and horseshoe type turret were new additions and the M3A1 served with the US in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy until superseded by the M5 Stuart. Additionally, it was used by the Commonwealth forces in North Africa, Italy, Burma and North West Europe, as well as the USSR and the Brazilian Army in WWII.

This 1:35 scale Italeri release is a simple reboxing of Academy's flawed M3A1 and no steps have been taken to correct that kit's well-known errors. The kit represents a very late M3 (hybrid riveted/welded) rather than an M3A1 and has the rear riveted

hull as such. The shape and depth of the sponson and projecting driver's station are off according to plans. The suspension is the weakest point of this kit despite making up more than half of the parts count and giving options such as road wheel and drive sprocket types. The arms sit way too low giving the resultant kit a higher than usual sit. This is not an easy correction. The road wheels are also a touch on the narrow side, which is noticeable.

Options are supplied for either flexible full-length tracks, or individual links with separate end connectors.

The kit does offer a well-detailed interior, which is correct for an M3A1.

The main difference from the Academy kit is the new decal sheet, which offers four marking options:

A. US 1st Armd Div, North Africa 1943. "El Diablo"

B. USMC C Coy 2nd Tank Bn Tarawa 1943. "Columbus"

C. US Army Training Centre Kentucky 1942

D. Brazilian Army 1944

- "Perereca" (Frog)

The decals are not complete compared to photos where available and are missing speed numbers etc.

Having said all of that, this is still the best M3A1 available at the present time and can be made up into a very nice kit with some hard work and alternate suspension.

If the accuracy issues do not concern you then this will make up into a good looking and detailed kit. ■

Thanks to Italeri for the sample www.italeri.com

The upper and lower hull pieces will be easy to assemble.



The M3A1's distinctive horseshoe turret. The kit supplies this upper moulding as a single part.



A choice of face or solid drive sprockets is offered.



Individual link tracks are provided...



...as is a full-length flexible track option.



A full interior is provided, including turret basket and fighting compartment details.



Smaller details are well moulded.



The riveted rear hull represents a very late M3.



Skid plate for the driver's floor.



Figures

- A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

ALPINE MINIATURES

1:35 SCALE

WW2 ITALIAN AFV OFFICER. ITEM NO. 35123

DAK FALLSCHIRMJAGER #2. ITEM NO. 35125

Alpine Miniatures has added two new 1:35 scale figures to their growing range.

The WW2 Italian AFV Officer is wearing jodhpurs and a long-sleeved tunic. Two heads are offered with alternate headgear – one with a set of goggles and one without. This figure is made up from six perfectly cast resin pieces. DAK Fallschirmjager #2 is also standing in a relaxed pose in desert uniform. The two heads provide either the distinctive Fallschirmjager helmet with its narrow rim, or a side cap. He is made up from eight pieces in grey resin, including the optional heads.

The two figures will be quite complimentary in a single scene, but will be equally useful alone. There are almost unlimited possibilities for using these versatile figures in vignettes and dioramas. The attractive box art will be a good guide (and inspiration) for painting in both cases.

Now in its fifth year of business, Alpine Miniatures has built a strong reputation for its high quality sculpting and casting. These two excellent sets will be warmly welcomed by Axis figure and diorama fans.

Highly Recommended.
Alpine Miniatures products may be viewed on their website
www.alpineminatures.com

Brett Green



DUST MODELS

1:35 SCALE

WILDFIRE US LIGHT ASSAULT

WALKER M1-A

ITEM NO. D35032

The "Dust" range of kits and accessories is not for everyone. Set in an alternative time-line, it is based on the premise of alien technology prolonging and improving World War II weapons systems.

The kit itself has 47 dark grey resin parts with only some having very small casting blocks attached to them. No casting imperfections were encountered on any of the parts and it is as good as injection plastic in a lot of ways. The instructions are both clear and very well drawn but they may be a little brief for some.

The legs are cast in the walking position but may be easily repositioned with a little work.

A superb figure is included with this release and really sets the mood of the piece. The kit is quite simple and would take no longer than a day to build prep for painting.

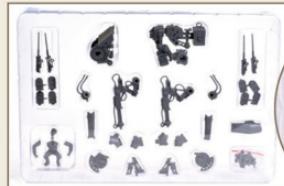
From my point of view, this ease of assembly is the strength of this kit. It will allow a greater amount of time devoted to placing it in an interesting setting or indeed having an interesting camouflage.

I like this kit as it brings the fun back into the hobby and surely that's what it's all about, really.

This is a very impressive model and comes highly recommended.

Thanks to Dust Model for the sample www.dustgame.com

Luke Pitt



MINIART

1:35 SCALE

ITALIAN CREW SET

ITEM NO. 35093

For many years, the mainstream companies completely neglected the production of WWII Italian tank crews

In 1:35, but thankfully we are living the "Golden Age of Model Making" and we have now companies like MiniArt.

Their new set, WW2 Italian Tank Crew, is a lovely item and will certainly delight not only from the Axis enthusiasts, but also the Allied ones. The box presents a lovely artwork and in the back you will find the assembling and painting instructions. The back also provides the reference colors for all the major paint manufacturers.

These figures will be ideal for the AS42 Sahariana, AB40, AB41, Semovente DA 75/18 SU Scatti M40, Semovente DA 105/25 M43, Carro Armato M1/39, Carro Armato M1/39 M13/40, Carro Armato M14/41, Carro Armato Pesante P40, etc...

This is a lovely set.

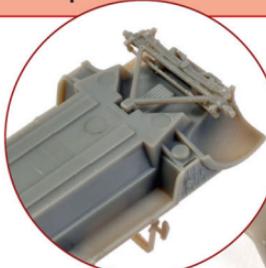
Highly Recommended.

MiniArt products are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

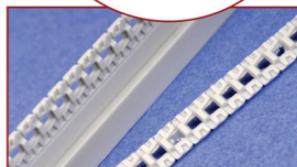
José Brito



Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76



The detail provided on MK 72's small scale Demag is truly outstanding.



SMALL-SCALE DEMAG

Glen Porter builds MK 72's 1:72 scale Sd.Kfz. 10 Demag Type D7

Demags are a bit thin on the ground in 1:72 scale. There is the Ace kit, which is quite good but short-run and can be difficult to put together. There is another that I haven't seen but I'm told is quite good; and then there's this one from MK 72 of Switzerland, which is moulded by Maco from Germany and therefore very nice indeed. This is their first plastic injection moulded kit and comes in two versions, European and North African, both with the same plastic but different parts, decals, instructions and box art.

There are 101 parts over all with 84 for the European version, which includes two parts for a wire coil on the back and 99 for the DAK version, which has a one piece rack and eight fuel/water cans with two parts each.

These kits have some very innovative ideas that I have never seen before. The tracks are moulded in one length and each link has a shallow cut between it and the next that allows them to be bent around the drive and idler wheels to get the right shape and sag. I actually found it easier to treat them like link and length by cutting off the individual links and adding them separately but several modellers have used them as they were designed with very good results. Jerry cans have three handles but in this scale they usually come with one big thick item because the can is moulded in one piece. MK 72 offer us their cans in two pieces so you get at least two handles per can and a third can be added by the modeller if he so chooses.

The multi-road wheels for German Tigers, Panthers and halftracks can be very hard to get all lined up and straight and Dragon came up with an idea where the inner runs were linked together as one

piece and only the outer ones were separate and they hid the links on the inner. MK 72 has copied this system of mounting road wheels as have Revell in some of their later kits.

I always work under the principal that no kit is perfect and these two from MK 72 are no exception. None of the problems are serious though.

There is a sink mark right in the middle of the dashboard that is quite easy to fix but you have to remove a handle just under the glove compartment on the passenger's side. The handle needs to be replaced with wire anyhow.

There are some ejector pin marks in the bottom of an equipment bin just behind the driver's compartment and also on the insides of the side panels. These are very hard to eliminate and I would suggest, as they are not very prominent, you just leave them alone.

German half-track tracks are rather thick in the centre with the rubber treads but on either side they thin down to almost nothing. This is not represented on these tracks.

Last but not least, the guards over the front wheels appear not to be high enough, that is they should be significantly higher than the track guards. Pioneer tools, shovels, picks, etc, which sit on top

of the front guards and at the back, a raised frame, because the track guards are so much lower. There is no frame on these models and the tools just sit on the guards at

the front and the track guards at the back. The instructions are line drawings and very professionally done with 20 build diagrams but no parts plan, history or paint/decal instructions. The paint/decal instructions and history are on the box. Also supplied are decals for four vehicles, which also includes an instrument decal plus a piece of clear acetate for the windscreen with a stencil on the instructions.

I built mine as the DAK version but changed the colours slightly from those recommended and accompanied it with a Roden Pak 40, which is also a very nice model. I painted the jerry cans in both desert sand and Panzer Grey with a white cross for water just to lend a bit of variety.

I painted with enamels followed by an acrylic wash of dark brown and finally Tamiya Weathering pastels to make the model look dusty and dirty.

The plastic is so well moulded, the detail so crisp

and clean and the fit of parts so good that the kit is a pleasure to build.

I wholeheartedly recommend this kit to anyone old or new, expert or novice.

MK 72 kits are available online from Hannants www.hannants.co.uk ■



The model was painted using Xtracolor enamels followed by an acrylic wash and a dusting of Tamiya Weathering pastels.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Collective Bargaining is a term usually associated with unions and employers coming to a mutually satisfying agreement. I would like to propose a variation of this concept to our readers with the aim of producing products that we may want.

How often have we found when reading reviews or selecting a product to purchase that it is not exactly what we really want?

There may, be for example, a particular variation or figure that we need or want that is not currently available. What are we to do?

The concept is quite simple. A group of like-minded individuals get together and all put in a certain amount of money with the aim of purchasing a "master" from someone who can produce what they want. The master is then out sourced to a resin caster to produce copies for each of the individuals that have put in money. The master can be either retained by the group or sold on to a resin manufacturer.

I know what you're all thinking. It all sounds a little hard. Well it can be, but it could also be very rewarding. From a personal point of view, I can't for the life of me sculpt a face in 1:48 scale, and

goodness knows I've tried. This particular skill is a rare gift. I, for one would like to get together with a group of individuals to find a gun for hire - someone who really can do it. Imagine a set of generic heads in 1:48 scale that were as good as, say, a Hornet set in 1:35 scale. It can be done and there are individuals who can do it, but like anything in life, it does not come for free.

Commission work is the bread and butter income for most of these talented individuals. Most masters are made for someone (usually for a casting firm), so why do we have to be slaves to the whims of others? We can and should give this concept due consideration.

Given this theme, I have embarked on a pet project myself. I have produced a master of a thin GMC Jimmy wheel that could be used for the Tamiya kit, purely because it was needed for an upcoming project. My initial thoughts were, "great, I have multiple wheels for this project", but I'm now thinking why not give the master away to a caster so others may use it? What do you think?

This last column for 2011 will also bring to an end to this series of interviews I have undertaken with modellers that I consider to be inspirational. The

series started way back in mid-2009 in issue 42 with Pat Johnston. Together with many others, these talented modellers continue to provide a benchmark for us all in regard to finishing. The one thing that I did note was almost all of the modellers interviewed want a T-55 in 1:48 scale! I hope that you have enjoyed reading the interviews as much as I have enjoyed conducting them. We may continue with this series next year. At this time, I would like to wish all our readers a very happy and safe Christmas and to thank all our guest reviewers over the course of this year.



Until next time *Luke Pitt*

HAULER

1:48 SCALE

HLF48016 INDUSTRIAL WATER PUMP

HLF48013 CITY WATER PUMP

Hauler has sent a number of 1:48 scale photo-etched and resin accessories:



HLF48016 INDUSTRIAL WATER PUMP

This flawless cast resin accessory is a great idea and would enhance any diorama. This set is quite small and consists of just five resin and two photo-etched pieces. This would be an ideal accessory for any factory diorama. Highly Recommended.

HLF48013 CITY WATER PUMP

To round out the new Hauler releases for this month is a water pump often seen in European Cities around the turn of last century. The set consists of a rather large (and ornate) bollard and waterspout together with an urn for the water to be collected. I could see this as a wonderful back drop to a diorama and is worth purchasing simply because it would add a bit of "zing" any scene.

Also Highly Recommended.

Both of these sets offer the modeller and diorama builder an extra edge when constructing a scene.

Thanks to Hauler for the samples
www.hauler.cz

Luke Pitt



VERLINDEN

1:48 SCALE

GERMAN SMALL FLATBED RAILCAR

ITEM NO. 2353

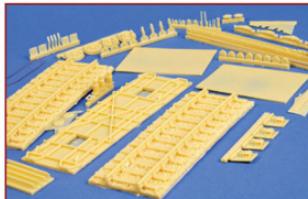
As I have stated previously in this column, Verlinden products are sometimes overlooked when we, the modelling public, go shopping for accessories for our dioramas. This is a real pity, as some of their products are worth a second look. This product is just such an example. What is offered is a very nicely done German Flatbed Rail Car. This kit is made up of some 70 very well cast resin pieces with the wooden texture on the flatbed itself being handled in a suitably subtle and realistic way. The kit scales out well to all available plans of the type.

Two sections of rail line are included and these too are very well done. The only real negative point I can see with this kit is the lack of stencilling decals. If you have plans for a rail diorama in the future this may well be an ideal base.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Verlinden for the sample www.verlindenonline.com

Luke Pitt



Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with José Luis Lopez

José Luis Lopez lives in Las Rozas, a little town 20 km from Madrid, Spain. He is married with two sons (or, as he describes them, his own personal Panzerfaust Team). He works as a Civil Engineer in his own firm with his wife, Marisol, who is an architect. His father is also a modeller, so he started making kits when he was 5 years old. Like many of us, he built all sorts of models until he reached 18 years of age. He tells me he completely stopped making kits up until four years ago, when he started building and enjoying kits again. He now builds mostly AFV models, both in 1:35 and 1:48 scales. For him, modelling is a way to escape the world and explore new techniques and materials that allow him to make new paint effects. He prefers simple kits, without complex assembly. For him, the assembly of a model is more like what paper is for a painter, only a basis for developing what he really likes - painting. He does not spend a lot of time gluing and sanding. The results are truly lovely works of art and it is a great pleasure to have him as the last interview for 2011 and indeed for this series.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Jose. Good to have you with us. What would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?

Jose: *Luke tough question! For any modeller surely, the best one is still to be built. I must confess that I have no favourite kit. Each model has its own history and different problems and challenges to overcome. Maybe my Sd.Kfz. 251/23 was my most daring project. It was my first homemade conversion and my first experience working with the so called "hairspray technique". I risked a lot with this model, but the results exceeded my expectations. I learned that without risk we tend to stagnate. I am working on the Tamiya's Jagdtiger and something tells me that this one will be my best kit to date. Or at least I hope so!*

Luke: What is the most influential 1:48 scale model you have seen in print and why?

Jose: Luciano Rodriguez's Sd.Kfz. 247 is my personal favourite. I remember watching this kit being built and was shocked at the end result. From that moment, I started to look for more articles from Luciano and was seduced by the dark side of 1:48 scale. In fact, I have all those articles on my workbench and they are an inspiration for me as I always find new details and effects on his kits that I try to emulate in my models. I am a lucky man, as my wife's family lives in Tenerife (which is close to where Lu lives) and I can visit him and learn directly from him. I am in awe of his painting style. He is not only a great modeller, but a very funny guy as well.

Luke: If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 scale what would that be?

Jose: You keep coming up with these difficult questions man! It is difficult to choose just one kit with so many possibilities waiting out there. There are a lot of tanks, guns and wheeled vehicles that I would like to see in 1:48 scale. Why is there is no T-55? I would like to see an Abrams or even a Styker. Would an Abrams would be a nice! It would be a perfect Christmas gift! Don't you think Luke? I get excited even thinking about all the different versions possible (tusk I, II ... First Gulf War ... Cold War...) an excellent fellow up for the Hummer!

Luke: Jose, I think Tamiya has different ideas about their next 1:48 scale release. It looks to be another World War II vehicle but a welcome one nonetheless.



NEWS

ACCURATE ARMOUR CROMWELL ALL ROUND VISION CUPOLA

This 1:48 scale resin conversion set was designed by Rob Tearle and depicts a pair of WWII /Post War "All Round Vision" (ARV) cupolas with opening hatches to fit the Tamiya 1:48 scale Cromwell Mk.4 kit.

Available now online from Accurate Armour www.accurate-armour.com





Book Reviews



STATIC MODEL MANUAL STEP BY STEP PAINTING AND WEATHERING TIPS VOL 3

BY MARCO MARCHETTI

ISBN: 88-88711-35-5

AURIGA PUBLISHING INTERNATIONAL

As a modeller from a bygone era when pigments, washes, filters, hairspray techniques and a myriad of other terms had an entirely different meaning and generally not related to armour modelling, this book comes along just at the right time. This is a step-by-step guide to today's now common modelling techniques presented in pictorial form.

Marco Marchetti presents this the third volume in a series on modelling devoted to common painting and weathering techniques in a bi-lingual (English/Italian) format supported by full colour images.

The book is presented in an A4 Format and is 62 pages jam packed with clear photos of the techniques being described on a series of different subjects in 1:35 scale including the Churchill Mk III, A13, Pz VI King Tiger, KV 1, T34 and Sd.Kfz 221 armoured car, amongst others. Some (but not all) of the subjects covered are:

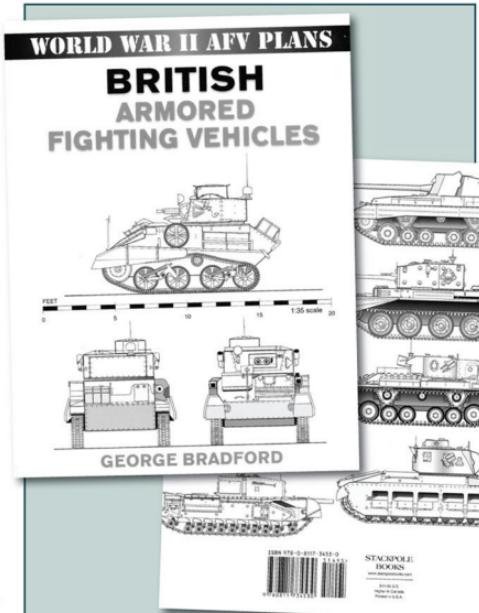
- Interior Painting
- Colour Modulation
- Camouflage (freehand and masked)
- Washes
- Filters
- Chipping
- Hairspray Technique
- Weathering Tracks
- Mud
- Dusting

The text is bi-lingual and generally easy to follow but I feel that a couple have suffered in translation and are not as descriptive as they could be. Despite this I found the book to be extremely useful and an excellent introduction, perfect for the beginner through to intermediate modeller. The pictures are large and clear illustrating the text well and a gallery of the finished products is presented at the end. If I have any criticism it is possibly the colour balance of the reproduction where the greens appear to be quite bright.

Despite this I would recommend this book to anyone wishing to try new techniques and improve the finish on the armour modellers.

Recommended.

Thanks to Auriga Publishing for the sample
www.aurigapublishing.it/index_en.asp
 Al Bowie



WORLD WAR II AFV PLANS BRITISH ARMoured FIGHTING VEHICLES

BY GEORGE BRADFORD

STACKPOLE
BOOKS
www.stackpolebooks.com
PA 17450-00000
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

George Bradford is a well-known and respected name in AFV and modelling circles, having maintained his excellent AFV Discussion Board for many years until recently. He has produced many titles on AFVs and armoured warfare and this, his latest, which is part of a set of plans of AFVs from WWI and beyond. This 93 page soft cover A4 book is essentially a collection of scale drawings of the major armoured vehicles used by British and Commonwealth forces during World War II between 1939 and 1945. The drawings are in either 1:35, 1:48 or 1:72 scales, with some subjects being covered in multiple scales. They appear to be computer rendered with surface shading in a grey and black ink. Each drawing has a scale bar underneath it to indicate the scale that, importantly, can be used to compensate for any size distortion in enlargement. Most subjects are covered in four views but there are a few in five views. A bonus is the number of photos of the actual vehicles in black and white, a few of which appear to be rare and previously unseen images.

The drawings are presented in chronological order starting with a Carden Loyd Mk. VI Carrier and ending with the Centurion Mk. I Pilot. Tanks are not the sole subject material with armoured cars, ACVs, AEVs and SPs getting good coverage. I was pleased to see that the range of subjects included the US supplied vehicles as well as British and Commonwealth subjects. Many of the subjects show different variants where applicable such as the Firefly, Churchill, Vickers Light series. A number of engineering and specialist variants are included too.

This book also includes a short introduction and importantly for the modeller it boasts a very useful table of reduction and enlargement ratios. The plans are well detailed but definitely not like the 1:1 blueprints. Additionally there is a diagram explaining the basic components of a tank, and a bibliography. This is an extremely useful title whether you are a modeller, AFV enthusiast or a wargamer and will make a welcome addition to the reader's reference library.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Stackpole Books for the sample www.stackpolebooks.com
 Al Bowie



1973-2000 THE STORY OF MATCHBOX KITS

BY JEAN-CHRISTOPHE CARBONEL

ISBN: 978-2-35250-186-6

HISTOIRE & COLLECTIONS

I was a young high school student in 1973 when I discovered a new range of kits on the shelves in my local newsagent under the name of Matchbox. I was thrilled with these as they covered subjects not previously kitted before. When Brett asked me if I wished to review this title that thrill returned and I revelled in a small bout of nostalgia as I pore over the pages from cover to cover. This latest H&C title is not their first covering well known model companies, with previous titles on Airfix Toy Soldiers and Heller kits (in French only). It is published in full colour and tracks the full history of the famed manufacturer from its fledgling days in 1973 through its heyday to the twilight years under German ownership.

The contents are well researched and I was amazed to see kits in here such as the V1 launching Ramp Playset that I was completely unaware of. It follows a logical structure:

- 1973, The Range (Including the 74-75 range; 76-77 and 78)
- The AMT-Matchbox Era (1980-3)
- The Twilight Period (1984-1990)
- Under German Control (1991-2000)
- Appendices

Each Chapter gives the relative history and a detailed listing of the ranges and innovations. They are well illustrated with box tops and pictures of the kits. The author has covered this extremely well and managed to track down some very rare subjects including two this reader was completely unaware of. The full story and background is presented in an easy to read format and I felt more than a twinge of nostalgia when reading this, which was an enjoyable experience.

I recommend this book to modellers with an interest in kit manufacturing. Matchbox kits and those who cut their teeth on these colourful models. The title is well researched and tables of the various ranges and their release dates are included in the appendices making this a great reference for the collector. It does not cover the Revell re-boxings under their own brand but that is beyond the scope of this title.

Highly recommended to the collector, modeller or historian.

Thanks to Casemate Publishing UK for the sample www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Al Bowie



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WORKHORSE: THE PANZER III IN NORTH AFRICA

BY CLAUDE GILLON

ISBN: 978-0-9806593-5-1

FIREFLY COLLECTION - THE OLIVER PUBLISHING GROUP

The Oliver Publishing Group's latest title is Workhorse: The Panzer III in North Africa, by the very prolific Claude Gillon.

The new book is presented across 34 pages including soft covers and is in A4 format.

Despite its slim proportions, the book is packed with information and large, beautifully reproduced wartime photos of the Panzer III in action in North Africa. Most pages boast two large photographs with detailed and useful captions focusing on the configuration, camouflage and markings of the vehicle depicted. Around 60 photos in total are provided. In addition to the vehicles themselves, the uniforms and decorations of the Afrika Korps crews are also covered.

The centerpiece of the book (quite literally as it is the four middle pages) is 14 full colour profiles of Afrika Korps Panzer IIIs, plus several scrap and detail views. Once again, these illustrations are amply captioned. A further five vehicles are covered in colour profiles on the back cover.

The inside back cover offers a diagrammatical table showing Panzer Regiment tank strength as at May 1942.

The Oliver Publishing Group seems to have hit a sweet spot for modelling reference with their series of books. Thanks to careful selection of wartime photographs and the provision of attractive colour artwork, there is ample inspiration and information for a number of modelling projects.

Traditionally, many of the subjects in these books soon turn up on Bison decal sheets too, so we can only hope that these North African Panzer IIIs receive the same treatment.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to the Oliver Publishing Group for the sample
www.oliverpublishinggroup.com

Brett Green



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Next Issue

On sale December 1st 2011



FAMO 88

We ran out of space in this issue, but next time we will see Jim Wechsler's awesome FAMO 88mm anti-aircraft combination using Tiger Models' 1:35 scale conversion.



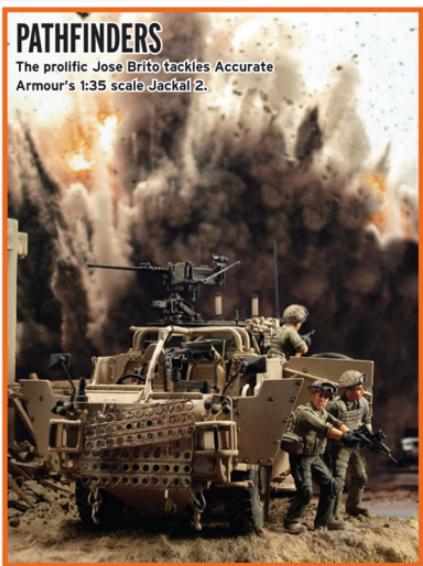
Waffen SS MG 42 Gunner

Matt Wellhouser brings his imitable style to Young Miniatures' 1:10 scale bust of an Ardennes Waffen SS MG 42 Gunner.



PATHFINDERS

The prolific Jose Brito tackles Accurate Armour's 1:35 scale Jackal 2.



BUILDING YOUR FIRST TANK MODEL

Rafe Morrissey proves that a change is as good as a holiday as he tests out painting and weathering techniques on his ancient Tamiya 1:35 scale M3 Lee.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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The Last Post -STOP PRESS-

British 25 pdr S.R. Bishop' 英軍25磅‘主教’自行火炮

CB3507

Bronco 1:35 scale Bishop. Kit No. CB-35007

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY...

Graham Tetley takes a first look at the new 1:35 scale Bronco Bishop, and he is suitably impressed.

After much speculation, the Bishop is finally here. It seemed sort of obvious that, as soon as Bronco first released the Valentine, then their 25 pounder gun, that a Bishop would follow. So what is it like? In a word - superb!

The kit comes in a large but flimsy, box. So flimsy in fact that my example from Hong Kong arrived looking somewhat worse for wear, albeit before it was in the shops in the UK. The contents were undamaged though, which is fortunate as the box is packed with sprues. In total there are 14 different sprues, one lower hull, a bag of 18 track sprues, one set of photo etch, two sheets of decals and 1 instruction booklet. In total there are approximately 700 plastic parts, 100 photo-etched items, and 216 track links. Just short of 90 parts are unused. The instructions run to 52 numbered steps, but there are some un-numbered sub assemblies built into those steps, and there are 4 marking options - two vehicles from Libya, 1942 and two from Sicily, 1943.

All of the parts are cleanly moulded and, if you have built a Bronco Valentine before, a lot of it will be very familiar. The tracks are individual link and clip together beautifully, although they are not designed to be operable. A lot of the hull fittings are new, and there is a new sub-assembly to add to the lower hull to provide some internal detail and ammunition stowage. A driver's compartment is also there, as is the transmission and radiators if you want to fit them. Not everything is perfect though, as with the Valentine Mk.I recently reviewed the upper hull in my kit was warped in the same way. Some of the distortion has been solved by fixing on the side stowage bins, but I fear that the distortion is too bad to be able to have the engine doors operable. I do wish Bronco would beef up this part.

Anyway, the highlight of this kit is the superb newly tooled 25 pounder. You can make the breech operable if you wish (and I do wish!) and you can even have the barrel moveable on its cradle. Some of the parts are insanely small, but Bronco has missed nothing here.

Obviously the gun has to go somewhere, and that somewhere is the new superstructure assembly. The basic box superstructure is made up of 9 parts, and to those are added all of the fine detail. As you would expect, the inside is festooned with shell stowage, crew seats, stowage boxes and a lovely number 19 radio set. Antenna pots are provide for the hull roof so the builder can add wiring if you so wish. Optional accessories provided are a flimsy can rack for the rear door and two 25-pounder shell and cartridge storage boxes. One of those boxes is pointed out as being painted in 'olive drab' - oops!

The rear doors are not moveable, so you have to decide if you want them open or closed. In my view it would be madness to close up this little beauty. No crew figures are provided, which is a shame, but there are plenty of plastic or resin figures currently available that will suffice.

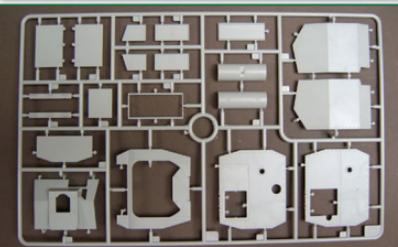
For those with oodles of patience Bronco kindly provides a decal sheet with markings for the shells. If you look really closely you can also read these teeny tiny markings - these things have 'TNT' inside them! If my references are correct there are 22 HE shells and 12 AP, as well as 32 charge casings. Decaling that little lot will be fun - not!

As I write this I am in the process of building this kit and so far I have not encountered any significant problems. All of this will be reported in a later article, but so far it is going together beautifully. I have learnt the lessons of hull construction from building the Archer so this one is less troublesome.

So far I am very impressed with it. I am slightly biased because I like British armour from the early to mid WWII period. I have not checked the accuracy or otherwise of the markings, nor have I checked the kit for dimensional errors, but it looks like a Bishop to me.

Buy one. I cannot recommend this kit highly enough. ■

Thanks to Bronco Models for the sample www.bronco-model.com
Bronco kits are available online from Hannants www.hannants.co.uk



The new superstructure.



Interior detail.



The bare interior.



Less than half of the ample shell stowage is shown here.



25 pdr breech detail.



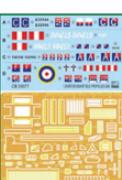
The lovely crew Tommy gun.



The radio set.



Some insanely small but exquisite detail.



Decals and photo-etch.

1:35 39-45 SERIES

Bison II 15cm s.IG 33 (Sfl.) auf Pz.Kpfw.II

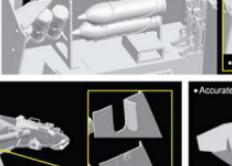
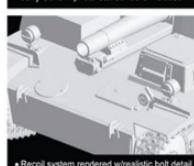
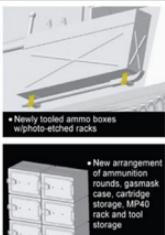
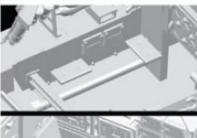
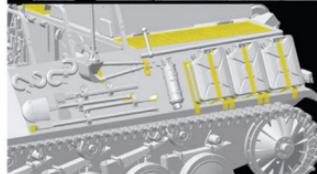
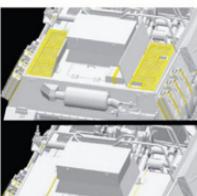
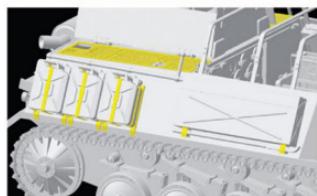
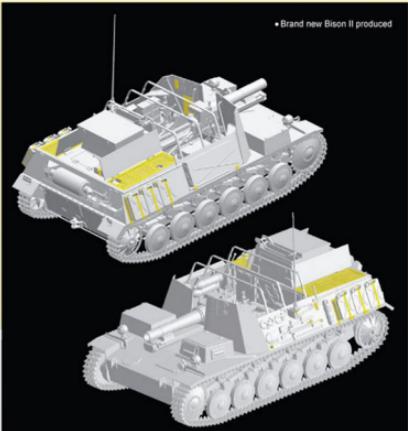
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D6440

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Manufactured under license from BSA Company Limited.



1/35 Cromwell Mk.IV
British Cruiser Tank Mk.VIII, A27M
(Item 35221)

CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC

1/35 Scale Military Miniature Series British BSA M20 Motorcycle w/Military Police Set

Item 35316

1/35
SCALE

The BSA M20 was the representative motorcycle used by the British Army during WWII. Over 120,000 units were produced until the end of the war and they were used for a wide range of duties including liaison, reconnaissance, and supply convoy escort. Tamiya's designers thoroughly studied actual examples of this bike and the result is this accurately reproduced model. The model depicts a late-war motorcycle which featured an air filter fitted onto the fuel tank. Included courier and military police figures are depicted in the late-style uniform which was worn in Europe from the Normandy Invasion onwards. Decals depict division markings on the motorcycle as well as MP insignia on the figure's arm and helmet. The package features illustrations of road signs which can be cut out for use. Display this set alongside Tamiya's other models of Allied Forces subjects to enable various diorama possibilities.



Distinctive front suspension and frame are realistically reproduced.



The single-cylinder side-valve engine features superb details.



Parts are included to enable 4 different arm poses.



Image shows actual motorcycle.

Tamiya's 1/35 Scale MM Series offers a variety of British subjects to enable various combinations for dioramas.



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Churchill Mk.VII (Item 35210)



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